



# Vietnam Veterans of America

## Chapter One

January, 1997 • Newsletter • Number 4, Vol. 1

### From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....

This month I thought that I would spare you all the agony of having to be subjected to one of my tirades or doing a Jean Dixon and making predictions. Instead I'll be brief and to the point.

I would like to see a large turn out at our Saturday, February 1st meeting. As usual our meeting will be held at Swards Family Restaurant at 6:00 pm. We need many warm bodies to help with our projects. We are at the point now that the planning phase has been completed and now we need to implement our plans. The only way to accomplish this phase is to have as many volunteers as possible. For example, we will need teams of one or two to speak before various organizations and "beg" for money. We need a dance committee, bingo committee, Casino Committee, Poker Run Committee and there are others. So, once again we need *A Few Good Women and Men*.

Attend the meeting on Feb. 1, 1997 and you too can "volunteer" for a mission.

Hope to see you all there, of course, weather permitting.

John

P.S. Elections are just around the corner.

### Dodge Development Center Update

The Veterans Administration Social Outreach Clinic has been established at the Veterans Assistance Office at 95 Crescent Street, Rutland, VT. The clinic will operate on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, from 10 am - 2 pm. Barry Arnold, a licensed social worker will be running the clinic.

Mr. Arnold will be able to assist with eligibility and

access issues regarding VA health care, provide info about veterans benefits, assist with the preparation of advanced directive documents and help with long-term care assessment and planning. There will also be Notary services available. If you would like to talk with Mr. Arnold, you may stop in during the scheduled times or call 295-9363, ext. 5364.

### The Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee Report

by Andy Moschetto, Committee Chairman

To date, all is in place for an August dedication for our memorial, however we still need monies in excess of \$10,000 to accomplish the dedication and beginning construction.

Monies have been coming in at a slow rate, but coming in nonetheless. At this time we need the cooperation of each and every member of VVA #1 to go out and solicit funds for the memorial. (At least \$100 per member will do) We have thus far written to National (VVA) for their assistance & hoping that Chapters throughout the U.S. will donate toward our memorial. We also need the names of all veterans who served "In Country", and whose home of record was Rutland County.

Stand by for future raffles, dances, bingo and other fund raising efforts to take place before the summer.

Thank You.

Andy M.

#### List of Donators

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House of Lights • Gill's Deli  
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It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.



# **Vietnam Veterans of America**

## **Chapter One**

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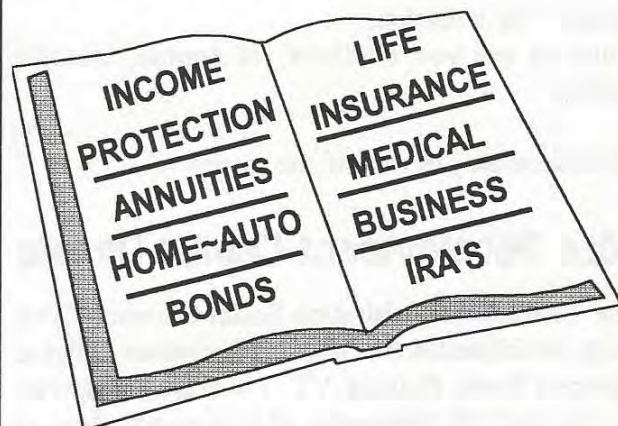
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## Writer, Photographer, Artist *A Biography*

John asked me to scribble a bit about myself.

Well, you have seen me wandering around downtown Rutland with a Nikon. On my head, a strange hat of vague military bearing might be seen. Had a recent show at the *Cat Scratch Studio* on 13 Center Street last year. It was entitled "*The Existential Nude of the Experimental Nude Series*" of which made the *Rutland Herald*. Peter Gallo, an art critic wrote a very nice criticism in December '95-January '96 *Art New England*. John Wagner is the artist responsible for that show and the writer of this little piece. A book came into being while struggling with the scars of the war. Scars of the mind. Cruel scars no one can see but you know all about them as the beggar knows his lice. It took only ten years to figure it all out and only ten more years to accept it and to make friends with it. Came to grips with my past concerning the 'Nam thing by learning to "live my cover". Spook talk? Cover? Well, born in the *Year of the Tiger* and being an early conscript of the Cold War, check out the *Chinese Zodiac* and you will guess it was 1950.

Back in the distant '50's, a certain snotty-nose little kid who pulled it on Santa. It was a fateful visit to Santa Clause in 1956 or '57. How could a little snotty nosed kid play with the mind of Santa Clause? Well the little kid did a wonderful job, it seems, as being a bastard of the Cold War, watching the newsreels on the early morning television about war, seeing bombs falling and cities crumbling, hearing Joe McCarthy ranting, seeing the parading Soviet Army goose-stepping on Red Square, the Hungarian freedom fighters, not really knowing the why of it all but still absorbing it all. We had an RCA black and white set that became the one-eyed baby sitter. Newsreels, even the old ones, would be shown by the program hungry CBS. Yes, the big eye. That was Channel 2 in New York and back then, Channel 13 had Farmer Gray, the cartoon show, not your neighbor who lives down on Old Route 7A.

What about poor Santa Clause?

Well, to a kid in that age bracket, who was influenced by the propaganda machine known as television, and the Cold War and the Witch Hunts and all its allied hysteria and paranoia, when the great moment came, when the fateful question was asked by the Saintly Bearded One In The Red Suit, "What do you want for Christmas, little boy?"

"A Thompson sub machine gun."

Santa turned dead white.

Shock.

"Oh my God!!!" The usual drunk hired by Macy's Department Store sobered up immediately. Memories of

Bataan and Corrigidor rushed back. God damn kid...

"Who do you want to slaughter?"

"Communists!"

He needed a drink.

Now.

Honest.

The propaganda learned from the tube was applied. Didn't even think about it. The kid had answered the Magical Elf of Yuletide in a clear voice. People turned around to see what the commotion was all about.

Did Santa have a heart attack?

Just what did that nasty little boy do?

Mom sure got that kid out of there real fast.

Oh Yes.

You see, my brothers and sisters in arms this was the work of that bastard son of the Cold War. Experimental stuff was done during that long undeclared dirty war. Drugs were a potent weapon *used by both sides* to either reward or program or control the troops, or to control their mood, since if stoned most 19 year old conscripts didn't really want to fight a war they really didn't understand. This was not entirely new, as witness the early *Assassins* who were rewarded with hashish to help them visualize *Paradise*, to experience just a wonderful glimpse of the awaiting reward reserved for the martyred holy warrior.

Dark medicine.

The fictionalized account of a true event aboard a 691 series of large destroyer, is about the adventures of a certain Fireman Electrician. It is easier to kill a man with a rifle than with a knife. A knife is a very personal weapon. A bullet is very impersonal. While it is had to kill someone with the knife, it's even harder to kill someone you know with the knife. Cold steel, you, him is all that matters since time has no meaning. Of *Phoenix* and *M-K Ultra* and *M-K Search Programs* all played a part. Drugs. A ghost down in the After Fire Room. Getting lost in the *Devil's Triangle*. A dirty ship and a rotten Old Man and a Loony Tune XO are just some of the situations thrown in for good measure.

Title of my naval intrigue is:

**Bloodship: Victor Four**

written under my *nom-de-guerre*, Gregory Lane

Also is the guerrilla war conducted by this veteran against the VA is described in exact detail and the final merging of the *combatant personality* and the *peaceful personality into one* is fully realized. *The Path of the Peaceful Warrior* is sought.

Would by most glad to offer for sale autographed copies of my novel when it comes out for my fellow brothers and sisters in arms.

Belated Yuletide Greetings to All!

John Wagner, Rutland, 1996-97



# Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

## BUSINESS

## DISCOUNT

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <b>Northeast Army Navy Surplus</b> , Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322                       | 10%                                    |
| 2. <b>Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair</b> , 13 Center St., Rut.                             | 10%                                    |
| 3. <b>Adirondack Tire Merchants</b> , Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944                        | 10-20%                                 |
| 4. <b>Army Navy Store</b> , Center St., Rut., 773-8839                                    | 10%                                    |
| 5. <b>Ron's Sunoco</b> , Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790                                   | 5%                                     |
| 6. <b>Sal's Restaurant</b> , West St., Rut., 775-3360                                     | 10%                                    |
| 7. <b>Howard's Sunoco</b> , S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911                                   | 10%                                    |
| 8. <b>Boss Threads</b> , Diamond Run Mall, Rutland  | 10-20%                                 |
| 9. <b>Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys</b> , Center St., Rut., 773-1488                     | 10-20%                                 |
| 10. <b>Buxton's Sunoco</b> , N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747                                  | 5% off labor & parts                   |
| 11. <b>Bob's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> , Chittenden, 773-9507                             | 10%                                    |
| 12. <b>Greg Barsanti, C.P.A.</b> , Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038                          | 20%                                    |
| 13. <b>Two By Two</b> -Handmade wooden jewelry, Pittsford, 483-6121                       | 10%                                    |
| 14. <b>Boise's Electrical Service</b> , Rutland, 747-4481                                 | 10%                                    |
| 15. <b>Battery Street Jeans</b> , Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445                        | 10%                                    |
| 16. <b>Leather Fashions, Inc.</b> , Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 775-3099                     | Discount <u>plus</u> they pay the tax! |
| 17. <b>Lemon Rentals</b> , Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460                                | 12% on car or van rentals              |
| 18. <b>McNeil &amp; Reedy, Inc.</b> , Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760                    | 10%                                    |
| 19. <b>Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen</b> , 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313               | 20% off all food items                 |
| 20. <b>Eastman's</b> , 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutland,                                     | 10% (custom framing not included)      |
| 21. <b>Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair</b> , 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT                | 10%                                    |
| 22. <b>A &amp; J Auto Parts</b> , 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584                         | 10% (except on sale items)             |
| 23. <b>Classic Stitching</b> , Computerized Embroidery, 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659 | 10%                                    |
| 24. <b>Pasqually's</b> , 162 N. Main St., Rutland, 775-7040                               | 10%                                    |
| 25. <b>Paul's Family Restaurant</b> , Jct. Rts 7 & 140, Wallingford, 446-2150             | 10%, eat-in or take-out                |
| 26. <b>Kehoe's Corner Deli</b> , 99 Crescent St., Rutland, 775-5569                       | 5% Deli Meats, 10% Large Sub           |
| 27. <b>Sevigny's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> , 236 Main St., W. Rutland, 438-2977           | 10%                                    |
| 28. <b>Freeman Jewelers</b> , 76 Merchants Row, 773-2792                                  | 10%                                    |
| 29. <b>Jake's Light Trucking</b> , W. Rutland, 438-5133                                   | 10%                                    |
| 30. <b>Big Daddy's Used Cars</b> , Center Rutland, 438-2558                               | 5% on truck accessories                |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.



# The Jim Jeffords Column

Excerpts from his Washington Report to Veterans

## Eligibility Reform

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I was part of the effort to bring eligibility reform legislation before the 104th Congress. Congress approved eligibility reform and the President signed it into law (P.L. 104-262) at the end of September.

Eligibility reform will maintain a "core group" of veterans entitled to health care without limitations. It will also expand outpatient coverage to certain veterans who were previously unable to obtain these services. The new law will enroll veterans according to the following priorities:

- 1) service connected 50% and greater;
- 2) service connected 30% and 40%;
- 3) service connected 10% and 20%, former POWs;
- 4) catastrophically disable veterans and veterans in receipt of increased pension for housebound or Aid & Attendance (A & A);
- 5) veterans unable to defray the cost of care;
- 6) other "core group" veterans: i.e. WWI, environmental exposure;
- 7) all other veterans.

The distinction between inpatient and outpatient care will be eliminated, allowing the VA to provide the most appropriate and cost-effective hospital care and medical services in the most clinically appropriate setting. VA is also required to maintain special programs, such as blind rehabilitation, amputation and mental illness.

The next two years will be a transition period. However, after October 1, 1998, enrollment will be required for treatment. Service connected 50% and higher will be treated without regard to enrollment. In order to ensure that the legislation is providing the necessary care, the VA will report back to Congress by March 1, 1998 on the effectiveness of the new system.

## Budget

There was good news for the VA budget for fiscal year 1997. The final version of the VA/HUD Appropriations Act for next year, passed by Congress on September 24, increased the VA's total appropriation amount by \$785.7 million, for a new total of \$39.1 billion. Within that amount, medical care funds were increased by \$444.4 million over last year's amount to \$17.3 billion. VA medical and prosthetic research funds were also increased by \$5 million to \$262 million.

Included in the final version was a provision that will provide lifetime compensation and medical treatment for up to 3,000 children of Vietnam veterans. These children are afflicted with a defect of the neural tube (the

embryonic structure that extends from the spinal cord to the brain) called Spina Bifida. Compensation would entail a monthly monetary allowance, depending on the degree of the condition. The National Academy of Sciences recently linked Spina Bifida with exposure to Agent Orange.

I am pleased that there was such strong bipartisan cooperation this year in securing funding for veterans programs. And, as a former Naval officer myself, I was also gratified to see Congress take strong and concrete measures to address the needs of our veterans.

## Problems? Give me a call

One of the most rewarding parts of my job is the knowledge that we have been able to help many Vermonters resolve the problems they experience with federal programs or benefits. A large percentage of these calls are from veterans or their dependents who re in the process of filing claims for VA compensation or pension, and the missing link may be substantiation of a disease or injury through service medical and personnel records. If you are in need of this information and need a helping hand to get it, I have a pretty good track record and would be happy to assist you. Please feel free to contact me or my staff member, Diana Harrington at 223-5273 (*call collect if you are outside the local dialing area for Montpelier*).

**Articles & Ads for the  
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directly to the editor:**

**Beth Higgins  
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## Pilot missing since 1944 laid to rest

Associated Press

*Reprinted from The Post Star, Glens Falls, NY*

YARMOUTH, Maine - 1st Lt Roger True Lane was last seen alive on Christmas Eve 1944 when his P-47 fighter plane, named Scrumptious Bette in honor of his girlfriend, was shot down over Nazi Germany.

He finally came home on Saturday.

About 100 people, including veterans and high school friends, came to a snow covered cemetery to attend his funeral, a solemn affair marked by a muted drum roll, a bugler playing taps, and a thundering flyover by jets.

On Dec. 24, 1944, with Allied troops mired in the Battle of the Bulge, the 22 year old pilot took off from Le Culot, Belgium in his Thunderbolt, named for 16 year old girlfriend Bette Nelson of Pocatello, Idaho.

He was shot down over western Germany.

In June 1993, two young Germans scouring a field near Prum, Germany, with a metal detector discovered a machine gun, a scrap of parachute and human bones.

Linda Abrams, a genealogist who tracks long lost relatives for the Army, eventually found Nancy Farbstein, a 62 year old restaurant owner in New York City, the only child of Lane's half sister, Marian, and his only surviving relative.

Bette Nelson is now Bette Young, 68, of Santa Rosa California, who lost her own son in Vietnam.

*- submitted by Milton "Pappy" Smith -*

## The VVA VICTORY SCORECARD Highlights

Consider the highlights of the VVA VICTORY SCORECARD - both legislatively and administratively - which jut since last spring include:

- Children of Vietnam Veterans exposed to Agent Orange and born with spina bifida will receive health care, compensation and training, effective October 1, 1997. This is a landmark victory that promises to ensure that the effects of the Vietnam War and other wars on the children of those who served will be addressed by the United States government. VVA walked point on this effort and secured the victory. - H.R. 3666
- Prostrate cancer and peripheral neuropathy are now service connected for Vietnam veterans who served in Southeast Asia. The President's announcement followed VVA's specific request for the actions.
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs budget was

increased significantly during a time of tight dollars and escalating budget cuts. Most of this new money is targeted at health care with some directed at expediting claims processing.

We also helped maintain funding for the Centers for Minority and Women Veterans; the Advisory Committees on Minority and Women Veterans; and staffing and travel for the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

- Agent Orange veterans will continue to receive priority treatment at VA hospitals through 2002; Persian Gulf Illness veterans will through 1998; and Radiation/Ionization veterans priority status was made permanent. Outpatient care was added to these programs. VVA was a key player in making sure that these veterans priority care provisions were preserved. - H.R. 3118

- With VVA as a principal member of a VSO coalition, substantive VVA health care reform took its first big steps. The shift in emphasis from inpatient to more cost-efficient outpatient care has begun. The process for contracting-out VA medical services will start to be liberalized.

- Again with VVA at the lead, Vet Center eligibility has been expanded to include World War II and Korean veterans. Additionally, VA is required to assess the feasibility and desirability of expanding the use of Vet Centers for certain health care services, provided that the mission and clinical integrity of the Vet Centers is maintained.

- With strong VVA support, the start date for the "Vietnam Era" has been moved back to February 28, 1961 for in-country veterans. The action will benefit Vietnam veterans with Agent Orange related conditions and low income, wartime non-service connected disability pensions. Additionally, this modification could have positive implications for state administered wartime veterans benefits. - S. 1711

- The authority for HVRP and VA community based care programs for homeless veterans was extended through 1998.

- Initial cuts of roughly \$14 million in veterans training and employment program funding were restored. VVA's actions were widely credited for securing the victory.

- Women veterans legislation established mammography quality standards for VA and patient privacy protocols. Annual Congressional reports are required with regard to usage of and barriers to VA services for women. VVA has long been recognized as the principal VSO advocate on women's health care issues.

- The health status evaluation program for spouses and children of Persian Gulf War veterans was extended through 1998 further evidencing VVA's commitment to our Founding Principle, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."



## Membership Notes

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** John Crowther, Rutland; Luke Miller, Milford, CT; Gerald Silcott, Vergennes; Andy Megrath, Rutland; Faie Shepard, Brandon; Matt Mulligan, Castleton and Patricia Grady, Hampton, NY.

Renewals are coming in, please find your renewal notice and submit it now, the end of February will be her soon. Again, consider the 3 year membership, it cuts down on paperwork and worrying about "am I current".

The bet with Chapter 753 on having the most members by the end of 1996 has been won! Ed Jones conceded. Chapter 1 President will get a Chapter 753 patch presented to him. We beat them by 24 members! Stay tuned for future challenges.

Speaking of challenges: North Dakota is #1 in the nation as far as % of members in VVA vs. Vietnam Era vets in the state. They have 298 out of 19000. Vermont is #2 with 307 out of 19900. Let's go for #1!

Chapter 1 is now on the Internet. Vietnam Veteran Home Page has a list of vet organizations. We are listed under VVA (along with the rest of the VT chapters).

The VVA Veteran will now be published every 2 months.

Chapter 1 patches are now available for sale at \$3 per patch.

Even at 106 members, we still need to recruit to stay over 100 as history shows we lose about 15-20% each year. All members that recruited one or more new members this

year take a bow. All who didn't, revise your new year's resolution list!

*Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman*

## Member Collage for VE Vet Recognition Day

In order to have the maximum membership participation and interesting visuals for Recognition Day we will be creating a collage of Chapter 1 members to display for the event. We are requesting that you send a picture of yourself for display. It can be a current picture or when you were in the military or high school. Pictures are being requested of all members. Each of the 4 Vermont chapters will be participating so we hope to make the quality and quantity of the collages competitive. Please do the following:

- ✓ Search for a suitable picture
- ✓ Write a brief caption describing the picture (ex: Dick Doyle(center) drinking beer & flashing peace sign with fellow soldiers, Camp Evans, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, late Apr. 1970)
- ✓ Let me know if picture is one that can be used in the future or must be returned
- ✓ Send picture to Dick Doyle, 35 Old Terrace St., Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

Your picture will be handled with care and returned to you in the same condition it is received. We will notify members how well this is going in the coming months through the newsletter. Please submit now!!

## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:  
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_


Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam Era \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

	<b>Vietnam Veterans of America</b> <b>Chapter One - 1997</b>
<i>This is to certify that</i> <b>John Doe</b> <i>is a member in good standing of the</i> <b>Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1</b> <b>Sgt. Pepper</b> <b>Membership Committee Chairman</b> <i>Temporary Membership Card</i>	



## Murphy's Military Laws of Combat

*Part two of Murphy's Law of Combat, submitted  
by several people, in several forms.*

13. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.
14. There is nothing more satisfying than having someone take a shot at you, and miss.
15. Don't be conspicuous. In the combat zone, it draws fire. Out of the combat zone, it draws sergeants.
16. If your sergeant can see you, so can the enemy.
17. Never worry about the bullet with your name on it. Instead, worry about shrapnel addressed to 'occupant'.
- 18a. All battles are fought at the junction of two or more map sheets...printed at different scales.
- 18b. All battles are fought uphill.
- 18c. All battles are fought in the rain.
19. Logistics is the ball and chain of armored warfare.  
*Heinz Guderian*
20. The army with the smartest dress uniform will lose.
21. What gets you promoted from one rank gets you killed in the next rank.
22. A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow. *George Patton*
23. If orders can be misunderstood, they have been.
24. Tracer works both ways.

## February Meeting to be Held at Seward's

*The next meeting of Vietnam Veterans of  
America, Chapter 1 will be held  
on Saturday, February 2nd at 6 pm at  
Seward's Family Restaurant on  
North Main St. in Rutland.*



## President's Day February 17th, 1997

*Ever wonder what they'd think today?*

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One  
P.O. Box 6301  
Rutland, VT 05702  
Please Forward



*"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."*





# Vietnam Veterans of America

## Chapter One

February, 1997 • Newsletter • Number 4, Vol. 2

### From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....

It was a year ago this month that I coined the phrase "100 and Out" for my campaign slogan. The 100 was in reference to reaching the goal of 100 members for VVA #1 during my next term as "El Presidente". Well, as you may all know we have surpassed that figure and as of 2/13/97 we have 116 members.

I have been President of this fine organization for the past 3 years and it is time for an infusion of some new blood.

Elections will be held on April 5, 1997 at our monthly meeting. All offices will be up for grabs, including four board of directors positions. I would think that some of you out there would take this opportunity to become leaders of what I believe is one of the fastest growing chapters in the nation.

So if there is a potential office holder out there, please let us know and we will get you on the ballot for April, or just show up for the April meeting.

There is renewed interest in Chapter Jackets. We have an approximate cost per jacket of \$60-\$70 at this time. We are researching various vendors to try and get the best quality for the best price. If you would be interested please notify VVA #1 and include your size. We will be glad to order one for you and if necessary mail it to you.

There has been a change in the location and time for our March meeting. There is a major event taking place on the First of March and I thought we could have our meeting so that we could attend this spectacle. The meeting on March First will be held at Tomasi's Tavern in Fair Haven at 3:00 PM. A map is enclosed for those of us who don't know the way. What is this major event that will coincide with our meeting? The answer is revealed somewhere in this newsletter...

Hope to see everyone there.

*John*

### Membership Notes

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** Edward Grabowski, Rutland; Joseph Moschetto, Englewood, CO; Eugene Shepard, Brandon; Rosemary Valente, transfer from Bennington.

*Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman*

### The Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee Report

*by John Bergeron, Chapter President*

I can see that the biggest problem that we are going to encounter is that of getting all the names of those from Rutland County who served in Nam. I've called the town clerks in the county, the Veterans Affairs Office in Montpelier, we have placed ads in the papers and on the radio. I would think that to make life easier, that there is a list of all those who served in Vietnam. But, where this list can be found is beyond me.

If anyone can shed some light on this perplexing dilemma please step forward. This memorial means a great deal to us and we would like to do the right thing and include everyone.

At this time we have raised \$1500. We have donation jars in various locations with more to go.

Morse Block of Rutland will donate all the pavers (patio brick) that we need. Smalley Contractors has graciously offered to do any and all excavation. Tom Ryan has offered to donate his time to lay the pavers.

So as you can see the total cost for this project will be much less than we projected, thanks to those fine folks who believe in this project and have stepped forward to offer their services. Now all we need is someone with deep pockets to write us a "blank check".

The following have so generously donated money to our Memorial:

Elizabeth Moulton • Pauls Cleaners  
Alderman Chevrolet • Steve Sarli • Greg's Auto  
Pluess-Stauffer, Inc. • F.W. Webb & Co.  
Patch's Petroleum • Tire Warehouse  
Marine Corp League - Edson Detachment  
Woodshop Specialties • McDonalds  
Sevigny's Hunting & Fishing

### UPDATE: Member Collage Recognition Day

There has been only 1 photo received.

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.



# Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One Officers and Board of Directors

## Officers

**President - John Bergeon - 13 Center Street, Rutland, Vt - (802) 773-2815**

**Vice President - Steve Faye - (802) 773-7305**

**Secretary - Bill Barnes - (802) 265-8755**

**Treasurer - Jon Pintello - (802) 265-8602**

## Board Members

**Dick Doyle - (802) 885-2167 - Work - E-Mail - RDOYLE@mail.det.state.vt.us**

**Frank Bump - (802) 247-6980**

**Bill Whitney - (802) 875-2640**

**Bill Picknell - (802) 767-9874**

**Bill Higgins - (802) 468-5652**

**Beth Higgins - (802) 468-5652**

## Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair

Visit our new expanded store • All  
repairs done on premises • Carrying  
a large line of shoe care products  
• Heels While You Wait

*Product Sales for VVA #1  
Military Pins, Patches, Stickers, Buckles, etc.*

***We Honor Our Vets***  
**10% Discount on all repairs**

**John Bergeron**  
*Owner*

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT  
Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon



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(802) 773-7305 • WATS 800-696-DETER • FAX 773-3878



**POW/MIA  
VIGIL**

**Every Thursday at 7 PM  
Fair Haven Memorial Park**



## Vet Center Update

Timothy Beebe, MA, CADC, Team Leader at the Vet Center in White River Jct. recently sent us a letter with some interesting facts in it;

The President recently signed into law (PL 104-262) legislation that expands eligibility of Vet Center services to WWII and Korean War vets.

Also signed in October was PL 104-275, which extends the starting date of the Vietnam war to February 28, 1961. It had previously been August 5, 1964. As many of you know, there were over 20,000 U.S. advisors in Nam in 1962. Now those "Early-on" vets can walk into any Vet Center and get help, too.

The battle to expand Vet Center services to include all war veterans had been going on for over 10 years. Thanks go to the many of you who call congressmen and Senators to let them know how you felt about this issue.

Vets who served in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf and Somalia are also encouraged to drop in at any

Vet Center. Also, any vet who was sexually assaulted or harassed during active duty will find help available.

Anyone having questions about the Vet Center can call toll-free 1-800-649-6603.

## From the Newsletter Staff

The Newsletter Staff is happy to announce that starting with this issue the printing will be done by the CVPS Printing Department.

Jack Crowther, the Community Representative for CVPS, and a member of VVA #1 has made arrangements with the CVPS stockholders Community Involvement program to foot the bill for any & all printing costs related to our newsletter.

Our current arrangement is becoming costly. As the mailing list continues to grow, printing costs have been in the \$50.00 range. So with this new arrangement, we will save some money.

We at VVA #1 want to thank those fine folks at CVPS for their generous offer. As a footnote - Don't worry, your electric bills will not be skyrocketing!

---

## CELEBRATION

My family's amazed  
The mortician's in tears  
I wonder myself  
How I survived fifty years!

When recalling life's memories  
Of old Januarys to December  
Some seem so vivid  
Most I don't remember.

But time has sure taught me  
This truth with no doubt  
At the end of it all  
It all evens out.

So in time; you who are younger  
Than myself and my peers,  
You'll too soon be wondering  
"What in hell happened; to the last fifty years?"

- Jon Pintello, 1997 -

Yup, I'm turning fifty the 3rd on March. I'll be celebrating the event Saturday the 1st of March at Tomasi's Tavern on Liberty Street in Fair Haven, from 4 to 8 pm. Stop by and visit if you're not busy washing your hair or something. There will be stuff to eat, you pay for the drinks (Mine and yours) fair enough? See you there! Oh, by the way, call and leave a message if you can make it so I'll now how many of those Vienna sausages to buy.

Jon and Peg Pintello  
(802) 265-8602



# Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

## BUSINESS

## DISCOUNT

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <b>Northeast Army Navy Surplus</b> , Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322                       | 10%                                    |
| 2. <b>Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair</b> , 13 Center St., Rut.                             | 10%                                    |
| 3. <b>Adirondack Tire Merchants</b> , Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944                        | 10-20%                                 |
| 4. <b>Army Navy Store</b> , Center St., Rut., 773-8839                                    | 10%                                    |
| 5. <b>Ron's Sunoco</b> , Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790                                   | 5%                                     |
| 6. <b>Sal's Restaurant</b> , West St., Rut., 775-3360                                     | 10%                                    |
| 7. <b>Howard's Sunoco</b> , S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911                                   | 10%                                    |
| 8. <b>Boss Threads</b> , Diamond Run Mall, Rutland  | 10-20%                                 |
| 9. <b>Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys</b> , Center St., Rut., 773-1488                     | 10-20%                                 |
| 10. <b>Buxton's Sunoco</b> , N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747                                  | 5% off labor & parts                   |
| 11. <b>Bob's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> , Chittenden, 773-9507                             | 10%                                    |
| 12. <b>Greg Barsanti, C.P.A.</b> , Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038                          | 20%                                    |
| 13. <b>Two By Two</b> -Handmade wooden jewelry, Pittsford, 483-6121                       | 10%                                    |
| 14. <b>Boise's Electrical Service</b> , Rutland, 747-4481                                 | 10%                                    |
| 15. <b>Battery Street Jeans</b> , Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445                        | 10%                                    |
| 16. <b>Leather Fashions, Inc.</b> , Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 775-3099                     | Discount <u>plus</u> they pay the tax! |
| 17. <b>Lemon Rentals</b> , Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460                                | 12% on car or van rentals              |
| 18. <b>McNeil &amp; Reedy, Inc.</b> , Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760                    | 10%                                    |
| 19. <b>Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen</b> , 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313               | 20% off all food items                 |
| 20. <b>Eastman's</b> , 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutland,                                     | 10% (custom framing not included)      |
| 21. <b>Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair</b> , 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT                | 10%                                    |
| 22. <b>A &amp; J Auto Parts</b> , 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584                         | 10% (except on sale items)             |
| 23. <b>Classic Stitching</b> , Computerized Embroidery, 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659 | 10%                                    |
| 24. <b>Pasqually's</b> , 162 N. Main St., Rutland, 775-7040                               | 10%                                    |
| 25. <b>Paul's Family Restaurant</b> , Jct. Rts 7 & 140, Wallingford, 446-2150             | 10%, eat-in or take-out                |
| 26. <b>Kehoe's Corner Deli</b> , 99 Crescent St., Rutland, 775-5569                       | 5% Deli Meats, 10% Large Sub           |
| 27. <b>Sevigny's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> , 236 Main St., W. Rutland, 438-2977           | 10%                                    |
| 28. <b>Freeman Jewelers</b> , 76 Merchants Row, 773-2792                                  | 10%                                    |
| 29. <b>Jake's Light Trucking</b> , W. Rutland, 438-5133                                   | 10%                                    |
| 30. <b>Big Daddy's Used Cars</b> , Center Rutland, 438-2558                               | 5% on truck accessories                |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.



## Letters to the Editor

I guess by now we all have heard of the changes that are coming down the pike for the veteran. Ranging from health care to cuts in our disability checks.

Do I dare say I'm a veteran? If I acknowledge that I am a veteran, will I be taken off to a concentration camp and live the rest of my life behind wire?

If the federal government has their way, it could happen. With all the cuts they have made in the VA budget in the past and want to make in the future, is there going to be a future for our veterans who will come after us?

I realize that the money is needed to finance big business ventures overseas, and, oh, don't forget all the help those POOR underprivileged communist countries need in order to find their democracy.

What a bunch of crap, if the veteran would just die off or go away forever, that would make our leaders in Washington extremely happy. Then they can pick on the elderly and rob them blind, as if they haven't already been trying.

We see that, for the most part, the veterans are not going to take this lying down!

How stupid can our elected leaders think we are? Instead of cutting back on our paychecks and health care, let's start cutting back on big businesses all out support to counties like the Soviet Union and last but not least, our leaders PAY-CHECKS!!

It is time our elected leaders start acting like a government of the people, buy the people and for the people of the UNITED STATES!! This concept got lost somewhere along the way. Oh well, who cares?? Do our elected leaders hear anything we say, or are they just going through the motions to appease any given group or organization they may be talking to at that time?

There are a few Senators and Congressmen who actually do care, but they are a very small minority in Washington. Vermont only has one we can count on and they classify him a socialist. Way to go congressman!!

It may be, in the not so distant future, that we will actually stop paying taxes to the federal government and pay all that money in our own states. Won't that be refreshing!!

Until such time as we can eradicate those elected officials that can only think of themselves and their business ventures, we will have to continue to pay for their extravagant way of wasting our money. They will not be happy until all of us are dead and out of the way!

So, damn it all to hell, why don't we just die and let them have it all?

ANSWER: GO TO H\_\_\_!! WE ARE HERE TO STAY!!

Steven C. Faye

## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:  
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_


Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam Era \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

	<b>Vietnam Veterans of America</b> <b>Chapter One - 1997</b>
This is to certify that <b>John Doe</b> is a member in good standing of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1 <b>Sgt. Pepper</b> Membership Committee Chairman Temporary Membership Card	




## Marine Corps League seeks new members

The Edson Detachment of the Marine Corps League is seeking new members to fill its ranks and get more Marines involved with their community.

Due to attrition, our ranks have been depleting and we are looking for some fresh faces and ideas to perk us up. We need the help of all Marines to keep our Detachment alive and well. If interested please contact:

Stephen C. Faye, Commandant

PO Box 6067, Rutland, VT 05702, (802) 773-7305



RoseMary Valentine  
Proprietor

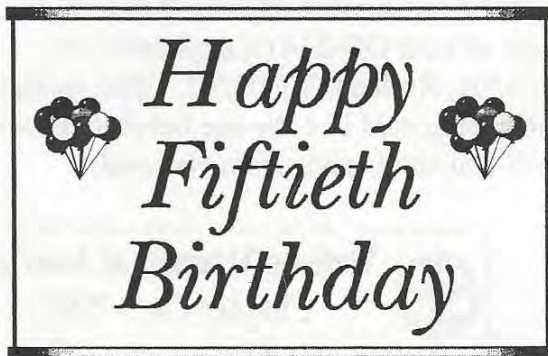
R.F.D. Box 1445 • West Road • Bennington, VT 05201  
2 miles west of Camelot Village  
802-447-0373 • Fax: 802-447-0054 • Orders: 800-442-2366

## Upcoming Meeting Schedule

*The March meeting of VVA Chapter #1 will be held at Tomasi's Tavern in Fair Haven at 3 PM. This will coincide with a major event due to take place at that place & time. Be sure to attend!*  
*The April meeting of VVA Chapter #1 will be held on Saturday, April 5 at 6 PM. The meeting will be held at Seward's Family Restaurant in Rutland. Don't forget - Elections will be held. Please try to attend, your vote is important!*

**Articles & Ads for the Newsletter may be mailed directly to the editor:**  
**Beth Higgins**  
**RD 1 Box 88A**  
**Castleton, VT 05735**  
**Deadline: 10th of each month**

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One  
P.O. Box 6301  
Rutland, VT 05702  
Please Forward



*Guess Who!?!?*

*"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."*





# Vietnam Veterans of America

## Chapter One

March, 1997 • Newsletter • Number 4, Vol. 3

### From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....

The results of the vote which was taken on February 20, 1997 by the General Assembly in Montpelier came as a bit of a surprise to most of us here in Vermont.

For those of you outside the "Green Mountain State", the Adjutant General of the Vermont Air and National Guard is elected by the Vermont Legislature and is done by a secret ballot.

General Donald Edwards, a two tour Vietnam Veteran, was challenged this year by 38 year old Lt. Col. Rainville. She offered the first challenge to General Edwards in some time. Any way, the bottom line is, she won the election and we will never know who voted for and against.

I'm not going to get into the politics of the election but would like to take this opportunity to thank General Edwards for all he has done. I know little of his leadership in the Air and National Guard, but I think that most of us have appreciated his efforts in the Vermont Veterans Community. He was very instrumental in: keeping the Sharon rest area open, which is home to the Vermont Vietnam Veterans Memorial; the Veteran's Cemetery and Chapel in Randolph, VT; POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies held at Camp Johnson; and the awarding of the Patriots Medal. Whenever he was invited to a parade or an event you could always count on him attending. General Edwards and his staff have helped VVA #1 on numerous occasions.

SO WE HERE AT VVA #1 SALUTE YOU, GENERAL EDWARDS, AND WISH YOU GODSPEED!

Don't forget, elections will be held at the next meeting, April 5th at 6 pm at Seward's Restaurant. Hope to see you all there.

- John

### The Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Update

*by John Bergeron, Chapter President*

We are working hard on fund-raising and collecting names of those Vietnam Veterans from the county.

**FUND-RAISING:** As of this printing we have been promised \$4,000. A team of people have been contacting the service organizations in the county and setting up dates to speak before their membership about our project.

News releases have gone to all of the papers in the area trying to solicit names and maybe a penny or two.

The following have made generous contributions:

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Silva • Eli's Auto Body  
Carris Foundation • Highway Department  
Proctor Coal • Chris Russell Farmer  
Otter Creek Brewery • Ben and Jerry's  
Town of Rutland • Kevin Mullin

### A Letter from Senator Leahy

Dear VVA #1:

You and your fellow veterans should be interested in recent events concerning our veterans hospital in White River Junction.

Several weeks ago, I learned the details of a VA plan to take resources away from medical facilities in the northeast and transfer them to southern states which supposedly have been receiving an influx of retired veterans. In light of ongoing efforts that VA is making to become more efficient, I was worried that White River Junction could suffer millions of dollars of cuts that would limit access to quality health care for Vermont veterans. We have already suffered cuts that recently reduced the size of our hospital from 150 beds to 110 beds.

Because of these concerns, I asked Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown

to meet with Senator Jeffords, Congressman Sanders and me to discuss the future of health care for Vermont veterans. On January 29, we met in my Washington office.

I am pleased to report that Secretary Brown told us that our hospital at White River Junction is in good shape for the future. He insisted that the quality of health care for veterans in Vermont will be as good, if not better, in coming years than it has been in the past. Secretary Brown is a former combat Marine and former national executive of the D.A.V. who is known for his honesty and tireless advocacy for veterans.

Secretary Brown had more encouraging news. He told me that the VA hopes to open new outpatient clinics like the one we have at Appletree Bay in Burlington. These clinics should allow many Vermont veterans to receive routine health care closer to their homes, while White River will always be available for more serious care. He also agreed to examine my proposal to double the size of the Appletree Bay clinic to better serve the many veterans in the Burlington area. Finally, the Secretary insisted that the resources transferred from Vermont to the south would be minimal. I hope so, because the commitment that our government has to veterans should stand as strong for Vermont as it does for other states.

While the delegation heard good news, I know that sunny predictions can change very quickly in the ongoing budget process in Washington. Needless to say, I will be closely following the VA commitment to our veterans. I will continue to fight to make sure that our government keeps its promises to those who gave so much to our nation.

I hope you find this information useful. Please stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Patrick Leahy, United States Senator

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It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.



## Upcoming Meeting Schedule

*The April meeting of VVA Chapter #1 will be held on Saturday, April 5 at 6 PM.*

*The meeting will be held at Seward's Family Restaurant in Rutland.*

*Don't forget - Elections will be held.*

*Please try to attend, your vote is important!*

*The May meeting will be held on Saturday, May 3rd.*

**Articles & Ads for the Newsletter may be mailed directly to the editor:**

**Beth Higgins**

**RD 1 Box 88A**

**Castleton, VT 05735**

**Deadline: First Saturday of the month**

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## **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One Officers and Board of Directors**

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**Vice President - Steve Faye - (802) 773-7305**  
**Secretary - Bill Barnes - (802) 265-8755**  
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The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS	DISCOUNT
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3. <b>Adirondack Tire Merchants</b> Strongs Ave., Rutland, 775-1944	10-20%
4. <b>Army Navy Store</b> Center St., Rutland, 773-8839	10%
5. <b>Ron's Sunoco</b> Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 773-2790	5%
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9. <b>Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys</b> Center St., Rutland, 773-1488	10-20%
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11. <b>Bob's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> Chittenden, 773-9507	10%
12. <b>Greg Barsanti, C.P.A.</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-4038	20%
13. <b>Two By Two-Handmade wooden jewelry</b> Pittsford, 483-6121	10%
14. <b>Boise's Electrical Service</b> Rutland, 747-4481	10%
15. <b>Battery Street Jeans</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445	10%
16. <b>Leather Fashions, Inc.</b> Disc. <u>plus</u> they pay the tax!	
17. <b>Lemon Rentals</b> Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460	12% on car or van rentals
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19. <b>Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen</b> 20% off food items 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313	
20. <b>Eastman's</b> 10% (custom framing not included) 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutland	
21. <b>Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair</b> 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT	10%
22. <b>A &amp; J Auto Parts</b> 10% (except on sale items) 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584	
23. <b>Classic Stitching</b> , Computerized Embroidery 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659	10%
24. <b>Pasqually's</b> 162 N. Main St., Rutland, 775-7040	10%
25. <b>Paul's Family Restaurant</b> 10%, eat-in or take-out Jct. Rts 7 & 140, Wallingford, 446-2150	
26. <b>Kehoe's Corner Deli</b> 5% Deli Meats, 10% Large Sub 99 Crescent St., Rutland, 775-5569	
27. <b>Sevigny's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> 236 Main St., W. Rutland, 438-2977	10%
28. <b>Freeman Jewelers</b> 76 Merchants Row, 773-2792	10%
29. <b>Jake's Light Trucking</b> W. Rutland, 438-5133	10%
30. <b>Big Daddy's Used Cars</b> 5% on truck accessories Center Rutland, 438-2558	

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

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Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam Era \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal



### Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1997

This is to certify that  
**John Doe**

is a member in good standing of the  
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1

**Sgt. Pepper**  
Membership Committee Chairman  
Temporary Membership Card



Dear Beth -

I am a new member. I joined VVA #1 because of my brother who is a deceased Vietnam Vet. (But not KIA)

This was a favorite poem of his -

I thought, perhaps, it would be nice to share it with the members - Thank you - Faig Shepard

### *What If:*

*"What if you slept?*

*And what if in your sleep you dreamed?*

*And what if in your dream, you went to heaven and there plucked a strange and beautiful flower?*

*And what if, when you awoke, you had the flower in your hand?"*

*- Author Unknown -*

*Editor's Note: The preceding note was received in February. I apologize, Faig, for the delay. Thank you for sharing it with us.*

## Operation Thunder Storm

The Last Patrol is planning a five week, 900 mile march along I-95, beginning in Melbourne, Florida on April 20, 1997, and culminating in Washington, DC over the Memorial Day weekend in late May. The purpose of this march is to call attention to veterans issues, primarily the matters of Gulf War Illness, POW/MIA and other health concerns. The hope is to unite the entire Veteran community to educate and enlighten the media and the public, and to enlist their involvement in the quest for TRUTH and ACCOUNTABILITY.

The purpose of the march is to make Americans aware of these issues and let them hear from the veterans themselves. They were there. They have nothing to lose by telling the truth. The goal is to tell their story as they travel through the towns and cities of the country they love.

Everyone is invited to go and talk with the soldiers whose lives and families have been torn apart, not by combat, but by the "unknown" that has caused the illness and disabilities called "Gulf War Illness". The public is encouraged to join in and walk with them as they pass through your community. If you can, make the entire trip.

Any and all help is welcome. Organizing a project of this size requires logistical support, food, advertising, shelter and medical supplies, and FUNDING. For more information on how you can help, please contact "Operation Thunder Storm", Attention: Michael Woods, 4520 Hopewell Rd., Jeffersontown, KY 40299, Phone (502) 266-6279.

## Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



*Happy Easter!*

*"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."*





# Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

April, 1997 • Newsletter • Number 4, Vol. 4

## Election Results; April 5 Meeting Highlights

The following officers were elected to lead VVA Chapter 1 for the coming year: John Bergeron, President; Steve Faye, Vice-President; Jack Crowther, Secretary, Jon Pintello, treasurer; Dick Doyle, Bill Whitney, Stanley Dulski and Andy Moschetto, Board of Directors. RoseMary Valentine will be the new Associate Member Liaison.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has raised close to \$5,000. Work on the brick paving will begin this summer. Meanwhile, the first major fund raiser for the year will be a music jamboree June 8 at Kick's in Mendon. Volunteers are needed to staff the event.

Carris Reels employee owners have donate \$500 to the memorial.

VVA Chapter 1 is up to 110 current members.

## The Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Update

by Andy Moschetto

Fundraising is continuing for our memorial, and it is becoming necessary to now reach out to all our members for contributions.

In addition to individual contributions, we will soon run a raffle wherein we will draw for prizes on June 8th. We do however need items to raffle off. If anyone has any ideas where we can obtain donated items, please contact me at 483-2530 (evenings).

We have scheduled a Jamboree for Sunday June 8, 1997 at 12 noon. The Jamboree will be held at Kick's on Rte. 4 in Mendon, and the host band will be Blue Train. They will bring in other bands to entertain throughout the day and evening.

They will play until everyone leaves.

A 50/50 raffle (\$20 each ...100 tickets to be sold) is also forthcoming, and will be drawn at the Jamboree.

All memrs are encouraged to attend the May 3rd meeting at 6:00 PM at Seward's Restaurant.

An Art Committee has been formed. Members include Faie Shepard, Lydia Moschetto and Anne Stratton. Donated paintings will be displayed, and hopefully sold at Art in the Park on August 9, 1997.

The following have generously given donations to the R.C.V.V.M.:

Norman Sevigny • Michael Boston  
Tom & Carol Reardon • Dennis Ross  
Cabot of Vermont • Henry Goddard  
Douglas Barrett • Howard Johnsons  
American Legion Post 31  
C.V.P.S. • Holiday Inn

## From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

I would like to thank Bill Barnes for serving in the capacity of secretary for the last year. You did a fine job and hope I hope to see you at a meeting sometime soon.

Jack Crowther was elected to fill the position this term and I look forward to working with him in the ensuing months. I would also like to congratulate Dick Doyle, Bill Whitney, Stanley Dulski and Andy Moschetto on their election as Board Members.

RoseMary Valentine will be the Associate Member Liaison. She will be taking the position held by Beth Higgins.

We have a very busy few months ahead of us so I hope that you are ready to roll up your sleeves and get right to work.

I have a feeling we will be seeing a lot of each other. GOOD LUCK!! *John*

Oh! John Bergeron was elected as President. (Is it time to implement term limits into our bylaws?)

## VEEP'S CORNER

This month's Veep's Corner is dedicated to General Donald Edwards, the former Adjutant General of the Republic of Vermont.

Since getting involved with the veterans organization in September 1990, I've had the pleasure of getting to know quite a few people throughout the state. But none so honorable a person as General Edwards.

I couldn't believe how many times he went to bat for the veterans in Vermont. Without him, would we have saved the Sharon Memorial or held POW/MIA Day in September at Camp Johnson? Maybe, or maybe not. We will never know for sure. But one thing IS for sure. Don and his staff were the main driving force in the legislature.

Every time I saw Don at any function for veterans, whether it be at the Loyalty Day Parade in Rutland or a small ceremony in Brownsville, he always went out of his way to make a person feel at ease around him.

With his excellent staff marching behind him, they seemed to move mountains and walk away with a look of total satisfaction on their faces, and, more often than not, even a little of a devilish grin.

Even in those final days, when someone else was throwing the mud, Don refused to lower himself or his standards. He remained steadfast in his beliefs. (Rare in these days of politics.)

Don, you had style and grace unmatched by any other, and even this old Marine would have been proud to have served under you in combat.

To General Edwards and his family, the members of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1, in Rutland and the VVA State Council, wish you the best of health and all that is good in life, and say thank you for a job well done. *Semper Fi, Steve*

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.



## Upcoming Meeting Schedule

*The May meeting of VVA Chapter #1  
will be held on Saturday, May 3 at 6 PM.*

*The meeting will be held at Seward's  
Family Restaurant in Rutland.  
Color Guard will meet at 5 PM to learn  
the difference between Right & Left!*

*The June meeting  
will be held on Saturday, June 7th.*

Articles & Ads for the  
Newsletter may be mailed  
directly to the editor:

Beth Higgins  
RD 1 Box 88A

Castleton, VT 05735

Deadline: First Saturday of the month

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## **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One Officers and Board of Directors**

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Treasurer - Jon Pintello - (802) 265-8602

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e-mail - [rdoyle@pop.det.state.vt.us](mailto:rdoyle@pop.det.state.vt.us)

Bill Whitney - (802) 875-2640

Stanley Dulski

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## **Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair**

Visit our new expanded store • All  
repairs done on premises • Carrying  
a large line of shoe care products  
• Heels While You Wait

*Product Sales for VVA #1  
Military Pins, Patches, Stickers, Buckles, etc.*

***We Honor Our Vets***

**10% Discount on all repairs**

**John Bergeron**  
*Owner*

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT  
Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon



## Vet Center News

Many vets are just learning that Vet Centers exist and wonder what they're about. More have used Vet Centers as places "to come home from the war" and say often that Vet Centers are places where they feel understood as veterans. I hope you'll take a minute to introduce "new" vets to us so we can help them with their concerns, too.

Not all vets know that, in addition to the Vet Centers in Burlington and White River Junction, there are counselors under contract with us to provide readjustment counseling to eligible vets who live a considerable distance from Vet Centers. Because the Vet Center team leader is ultimately responsible for the program, any vet who would like to be seen at one of the locations below is asked to contact either Tim (White River Jct) or Fred (Burlington) for further information.

Call Fred Forehand (802-862-1806) for further information on counselors in: Rutland, Morrisville, St. Johnsbury, VT and Plattsburgh, NY.

Call Tim Beebe (800-649-6603) for information on counselors for vets in: Bennington or Brattleboro, VT and Littleton, Berlin, Keene, Conway, Colebrook, Wolfeboro, or Groveton, NH.

A restriction of the program is that a person's concerns or issues must be military-related. We can help you determine that over the phone. Family can be seen, too, if the vet is in treatment.

We want all vets in need of assistance to know about Vet Centers and it is through other vets that they find these things out. Our efforts together to find vets in need and get them to a caring place continue to pay off, year after year. Until next time.....

Tim

## A Letter From Congressman Sanders

Thank you very much for your continued interest in HR 409, the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1997. As you know, I share your concern about missing American servicemen and their families.

HR 409, introduced by my colleague Rep. Gilman, would increase the access of immediate family members to information on the status of missing servicemen and would establish procedures for boards of inquiry regarding investigations and publication of findings. I firmly believe that the investigation process should be opened to all immediate family members, and that they should be afforded the opportunity to research matters pertaining to the disappearance and possible whereabouts of their family member.

You will be pleased to know that I co-sponsored HR 409 in the 104th Congress, and plan to do so again this session. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on National Security, where it has received little attention. Unfortunately, the Department of Defense has traditionally been opposed to changing its policy on MIA investigations, and members of the House Committee on National Security have been reluctant to challenge this policy. You can be confident, however, that I will do all that I can to push this legislation through committee.

Thank you again for communicating your concerns. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Bernard Sanders, Member of Congress

## VA Signs Agreement with Shriners Hospitals

On Friday, March 28, 1997, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced an agreement with the Shriners Hospitals to provide the best available medical care to Vietnam veterans's children who have spina bifida.

The agreement follows the September 26, 1996 passage of the Agent Orange Benefits Act of 1996. Scheduled to go into effect in October 1997, this groundbreaking legislation entitles children with spina bifida (and who have a parent who served in Vietnam) to lifetime health care benefits, vocational training, and cash assistance.

SHC is a not-for-profit charitable corporation and the largest pediatric orthopedic hospital system in the country. SHC will be evaluating children with spina bifida whose entitlement has been established by the VA. SHC will provide outpatient and inpatient care for those accepted for treatment up to age 18, and will accept no reimbursement for this care.

Beginning in October 1997, VA will reimburse facilities providing care for children not served by SHC—those over 18 years of age, those whose parents chose not to receive care at SHC, and those receiving necessary services not offered by SHC. VA will also cover transportation costs for treatment for patients and their parent or legal guardian.

The process of establishing entitlement can be initiated with VA by contacting (800) 827-1000. Families with children eligible for benefits are encouraged to immediately begin the process.

The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBMA) invites children and their families to call (202) 944-3285 to be added to their mailing list for updates on the development and implementation of the Agent Orange Benefits Act of 1998.

*TAKEN FROM: "NEWS TIPS FROM NAVFSO" April 1, 1997*

## Color Guard Report

Well guys, it's that time again to dig out the uniforms & boot polish. We have four parades line up already, with Loyalty Day on May 4 at 1400 as the kickoff. Then we have the Sharon Rest area on May 25 at 1000. Next comes the Chester Alumni Parade on June 7 at 1000 forming at Buster's house again this year. On July 5 at 1400 we march in Brandon again. We made a good showing at all these last year. Let's make it even better this year. We need as many of us as possible at these functions. We may also be going to Canada on some of the Vietnam Parades. We will keep you posted on that part.

On May 17 & 18, American Legion Post 50 at Castleton is sponsoring a Coin Drop from 1000 till 1800 for the purpose of raising money for our Vietnam Memorial. Carol & I will be running for the Legion, but we need some VVA help to man the stations so the hours can be broken down so nobody has to be out collecting long hours. Any help will be appreciated. Be at the meeting on May 3 at Seward's for final briefing.

See You then

Tom Reardon, Color Guard Captain

**P.S. Color Guard will meet an hour before our meeting for a practice session.**



## Membership Notes

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** Ted Goodfleisch, Life Member from Piermont, NH; Steve Frankiewicz, retired COL from Albuquerque, NM; Kenneth Hollmann from Center Rutland; John Suddarth, Jr. from Mendon; Richard DeMann from Lakewood, NJ; and Harlan Hatfield, Life Member transfer from North Highlands, CA.

Harlan sent us a bit of a bio along with his paperwork, so we are printing it as the first edition of our Member Profile. Anyone wishing to submit their bio is welcome to send it in and we will print them as time and space allow.

*Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman*

### Member Profile Harlan Hatfield, North Highlands, CA

I spent twenty years in the Air Force, joining in August of '59 and retiring in Sept of '79. I began as a Defensive Fire Control Tech. (Airborne Gunnery Systems) on B-47 aircraft. Later I was cross trained to B-52H aircraft. Being stationed at Minot ND. I decided the flight line was not the place to be, so cross trained into Precision Measuring Equipment Technician. I managed to stay in this field for the rest of my career, 15 years.

My assignments were: Lackland AFB TX, Lowry AFB CO, Little Rock AFB Ark, McConnell AFB, Minot AFB ND, Lowry AFB CO, Minot AFB ND, Tan Son Nhut AB RVN, Dyess AFB TX, Kadena AB Okinawa, Duluth AS Duluth Minn, McClellan AFB CA.

I was stationed as a PMEL tech at Tan Son Nhut AB Siagon RVN from 28, Jan 1967, to 26 Jan 1968. Fortunately missing the overrunning of the Army helo area in December '66 and from what I heard three hours after I left they rocketed a freedom bird right where mine had sat.

About the DD214 I filed one with National when I got my life membership, however if you really want one I can get a copy made and send it to you. Just let me know okay.

Since retiring I had a job with a major company manufacturing Test Equipment but it was in the bay area and the family here at Sacramento. So that only lasted three months. Then I got on with a company that had the contract here at McClellan for PMEL operations. (Felt right at home) Worked there 6 months then had a heart attack, bypass surgery. Never went back, but got Social Security disability, and VA disability paid at the 100% rate.

The wife went to work at the State here, partially due to the loss of benefits for retired folk, and because of the 24 hour a day togetherness. She will retire in 2 to 4 years and we hope to travel.

Well that is about it. Any thing else let me know and I am now a proud new member of the First Chapter of VVA... Oh yes thanks for the patch. Now I have to get a jacket for my new patches.

*Harlan N. Hatfield*

## VVA State Council to Meet

The Vietnam Veterans of America Vermont State Council's next meeting will be on June 7th in Chester, Vermont. We will meet after the Chester Alumni Parade, during the bar-b-que part of the days events. We are encouraging all officers and delegates to attend this meeting and come to enjoy the days activities with your brothers and sisters.

## Wall's 15th Year Marked

*Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes, 17-23 March, 1997*

In a small ceremony on the lawn in front of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, six senators who fought in the Vietnam War observed the 15th anniversary of the memorial 7 March by laying a wreath to the 58,196 dead and missing whose names are carved in the black granite wall.

Speaking at the ceremony were Sens. Max Cleland (D-GA), Charles Hagel (R-NE), Bob Kerrey (D-NE), John Kerry (D-MA), John McCain (R-AZ) and Chuck Robb (D-VA). Former Democratic Rep. Pete Peterson, Clinton's pick for the newly created ambassadorship to Vietnam also was present.

"There are still Vietnam veterans who need our comfort, our assistance and our love. The next time that you see one of them, all Americans should just say, 'Welcome Home,'" said McCain.

But for Jan Scruggs, who founded the memorial and heads the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, the six senators gathered at the memorial were a testament to what Vietnam veterans have accomplished since the war ended.

"At fifteen, the memorial celebrates the contributions and successes of many Vietnam veterans," Scruggs said.

Fifteen years after ground was broken for the memorial, "much of the civilian population still associates Vietnam veterans with images of a brotherhood marginalized by unresolved trauma," Scruggs told The Stars and Stripes. "The Senate class of '97 paints an equally valid and very different picture."

Scruggs said the popular image of the Vietnam veteran fails to focus on the many men and women who served in Vietnam and came back to serve their country at home in a variety of ways.

"Nineteen combat vets are in the House of Representatives. Veterans like Fred Smith of Federal Express and James Kimsey of America Online are changing our way of life with their entrepreneurial vision. Peter Prichard, president of Gannett's Freedom Forum, and Don Graham of the Washington Post help shape the media. Even Hollywood is represented with actors like Dennis Franz and director Pat Duncan," Scruggs said.

The memorial itself was often the subject of controversy. One of the opponents of the stark, dark design was McCain. He said his opinion changed when he visited the memorial one evening and saw two Vietnam veterans - strangers to each other - meet at the Wall.

"In a few moments, they were embracing and crying," McCain said. "It made it clear to me it was a wonderful place of reconciliation, a wonderful place of healing."

The final step toward that healing, said Sen. Bob Kerrey, will be made when former Rep. Peterson, who was captured and held prisoner for six years by the Vietnamese, takes up his post as the first U.S. ambassador to postwar Vietnam later this year.

Of his colleagues, McCain said "When I see them on the floor of the Senate, I feel a little lift because I know they feel the same obligation that I do, that is to keep always in mind the memory of those who served and sacrificed and our obligation to them."

More than 2.5 million people come to the Wall each year, making it the most visited monument in Washington. Many visitors leave personal mementos at the base of the 500-foot, chevron shaped wall which is composed of 140 tablets of polished black granite.

Each name is marked. The confirmed dead are signified by a diamond; those missing in action, by a cross. MIAs whose remains have been positively identified have a diamond superimposed over the cross.



# Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>DISCOUNT</u>
1. <b>Northeast Army Navy Surplus</b> Rt. 7 North, Rutland, 773-7322	10%
2. <b>Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair</b> 13 Center St., Rutland	10%
3. <b>Adirondack Tire Merchants</b> Strongs Ave., Rutland, 775-1944	10-20%
4. <b>Army Navy Store</b> Center St., Rutland, 773-8839	10%
5. <b>Ron's Sunoco</b> Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 773-2790	5%
6. <b>Sal's Restaurant</b> West St., Rutland, 775-3360	10%
7. <b>Howard's Sunoco</b> S. Main St., Rutland, 775-7911	10%
8. <b>Boss Threads</b> Diamond Run Mall, Rutland	10-20%
9. <b>Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys</b> Center St., Rutland, 773-1488	10-20%
10. <b>Buxton's Sunoco</b> N. Main St., Rutland, 773-9747	5% off labor & parts
11. <b>Bob's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> Chittenden, 773-9507	10%
12. <b>Greg Barsanti, C.P.A.</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-4038	20%
13. <b>Two By Two-Handmade wooden jewelry</b> Pittsford, 483-6121	10%
14. <b>Boise's Electrical Service</b> Rutland, 747-4481	10%
15. <b>Battery Street Jeans</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445	10%
16. <b>Leather Fashions, Inc.</b> Disc. <u>plus</u> they pay the tax!	
17. <b>Lemon Rentals</b> Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460	12% on car or van rentals
18. <b>McNeil &amp; Reedy, Inc.</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760	10%
19. <b>Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen</b> 20% off food items 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313	
20. <b>Eastman's</b> 10% (custom framing not included) 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutland	
21. <b>Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair</b> 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT	10%
22. <b>A &amp; J Auto Parts</b> 10% (except on sale items) 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584	
23. <b>Classic Stitching</b> , Computerized Embroidery 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659	10%
24. <b>Pasqually's</b> 162 N. Main St., Rutland, 775-7040	10%
25. <b>Paul's Family Restaurant</b> 10%, eat-in or take-out Jct. Rts 7 & 140, Wallingford, 446-2150	
26. <b>Kehoe's Corner Deli</b> 5% Deli Meats, 10% Large Sub 99 Crescent St., Rutland, 775-5569	
27. <b>Sevigny's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> 236 Main St., W. Rutland, 438-2977	10%
28. <b>Freeman Jewelers</b> 76 Merchants Row, 773-2792	10%
29. <b>Jake's Light Trucking</b> W. Rutland, 438-5188	10%
30. <b>Big Daddy's Used Cars</b> 5% on truck accessories Center Rutland, 438-2558	

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:  
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam Era \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal



### Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1997

This is to certify that

John Doe

is a member in good standing of the  
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1

Sgt. Pepper

Membership Committee Chairman

Temporary Membership Card



# COOK SHIP TO BE IN BATH, ME ON MAY 3, 1997

The guided missile destroyer DDG 75, named after famed Vietnam War POW Colonel Donald G. Cook, will be christened on May 3, 1997 at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine. Ceremonies get under way at 0930 and the actual launch at 1039 at high tide. The event is free and open to the public. Spectators from all over New England are expected to attend this historic first. The ship is the first in Naval history to be named after an unreturned POW. The DDG 75 is the latest in a series of Aegis missile destroyers in the Arleigh Burke class, 505 feet long, 66 feet wide, drawing 31 feet of water and displacing 8,346 tons. The ship costs \$1 billion. She will be manned by a crew of 24 officers and 315 men and women. Four jet engines generating over 100,000 horsepower drive twin screws powering the ship to speeds in excess of 30 knots.

Actual preparations for the launch will begin at approximately 2 AM with the wedge driving. Family members and members of the Marine Corps League chapter named after Colonel Cook will share the workload under the 7,000 ton ship. Hearty spectators can watch and may actually have a chance to try their hand at driving the huge wooden blocks supporting the ship. The blocks must be removed prior to launching and a system of huge rockers installed to break the ship loose when it is ready to slide down into the water. Bath Iron Works is the only US shipbuilder to launch from land to sea.

All others sink a dry dock to christen a ship. At Bath Iron Works, the Cook will slide eight seconds down the steel ramp into the water where it will be caught by two tugs waiting in the bay. The ship will then be pushed over to a dock at the Iron Works where construction on interior compartments will continue. The ship is scheduled to go to sea next February when it will be transferred to Portland for installation of the sonar dome. When the ship returns from Portland, it will undergo a two day sea trial before returning to Bath for completion. Commissioning ceremonies are tentatively set for New York City on November 10, 1998, the Marine Corps birthday.

The Keel was laid on July 9, 1996 at Bath Iron Works, on son Tom's birthday. The Stepping of the Mast, a ceremony marking completion of the hull and superstructure of the ship was held on December 31, 1996, the 32nd anniversary of Colonel Cook's capture in Vietnam. A small box containing a few of Colonel Cook's personal effects, a St. Michael's College pin, a POW/MIA bracelet bearing Cook's name, a copy of the letter to his children, and a small POW/MIA flag, was welded to the inside of the mast. A special plaque photoengraved with a rubbing of Colonel Cook's name from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and a quotation from his letter to his wife smuggled out of the POW camp by fellow POW Charlie Crafts was also installed in the mast.



*"...do what is right and just no matter what the personal cost. Love God and man above all else. Don't judge yourself by others but by yourself... This guides and will guide all my actions." - COL Donald G. Cook*

## Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



*"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."*





# Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

May, 1997 • Newsletter • Number 4, Vol. 5

## From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

As you can tell this month's newsletter is very brief and for a good reason. We need to make sure that everyone is informed of the change in the date of our monthly meeting. Normally the next meeting would be held on June 7th. That day is going to be filled with VVA related events out of town and we will be hard pressed to make the meeting on the 7th without scurrying around like a bunch of mad people. So, the next meeting will be on Saturday, May 31, 1997 at 6:00 PM at Swards Restaurant on North Main Street. This will be our final meeting before the June 8th Jamboree at Kicks.

Which brings me to my next point. Besides getting the information pertaining to the Jamboree out in time so you folks can make plans to attend, we also need volunteers to help. If you are able to give an hour or two at any time during the day we would be more than grateful. We estimate that it will take 10-15 people to make sure that everything runs smoothly.

Doug Williams, the owner of Kicks, has given us the use of his facility free of charge, and that includes all of the outside area, which is where all the "Kids Activities" will take place free of charge. We have a clown, Top Dog DJ and games planned for them.

Inside there will be music furnished by five bands and ongoing raffles. Some of the items to be raffled are: cords of wood, fuel oil, round trip tickets to New York City via Am Track, weekend stays at various hotels in the area, ski passes, membership at a health spa and more.

So please pass the word around and we encourage you to make copies of the enclosed flyer and post it.

See you all soon, because we are counting on this Jamboree to raise enough money so that we are able to break ground and begin construction of our Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

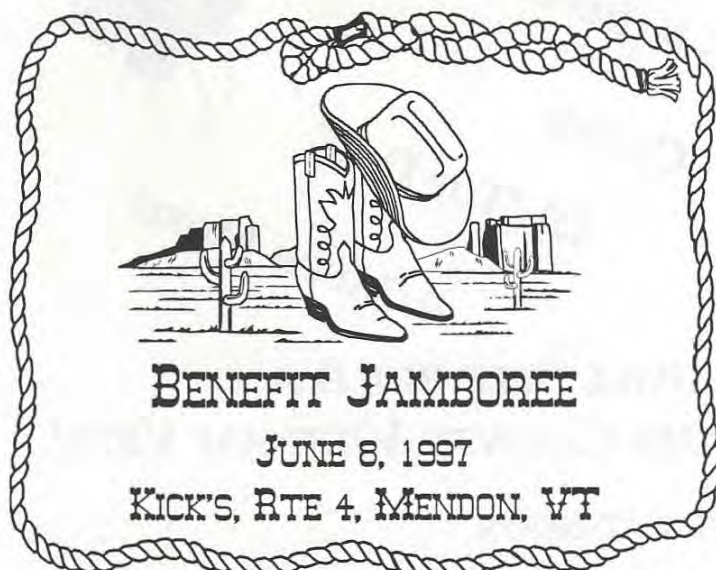
- John -

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

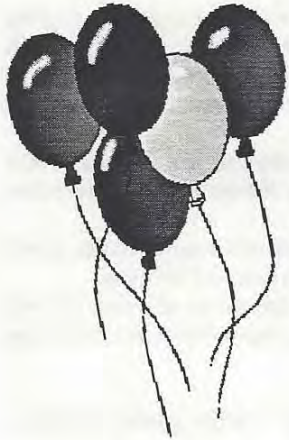
Please Forward



*"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."*



# BENEFIT JAMBOREE



*Hosted By:*  
**"BLUE TRAIN"**  
*• featuring •*  
**JIM DUVAL**  
**RED HOT RIDER**  
**SWIFT KICK**  
**NORTH COUNTRY**  
**CONNECTION**

**JUNE 8TH 1997**

Join us for a day of great music & family fun at "Kicks!"  
Rte. 4 Mendon, VT, 1 mile west of Pico Ski Area

FACE PAINTING  
"KLUTZ" GAMES FOR KIDS

RAFFLES

KIDS GAMES

FOOD & BEVERAGES

CLOWN

DJ "TOP DOG"

& MUCH MORE!



***YOUR DONATIONS WILL HELP BUILD A  
MEMORIAL FOR OUR RUTLAND COUNTY VIETNAM VETS!***

**DOORS OPEN AT NOON**

**Donation: \$5.00 adults • under 12 - free**





# Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

June, 1997 • Newsletter • Number 4, Vol. 6

## From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

My monthly contribution to the newsletter could be many pages long. It would require substantial space in this month's newsletter to thank all those who have helped make the June 8th Jamboree & our food concession at the June 14th Rodeo at the Fairgrounds successes. You all know who you are so give yourselves a big attaboy/atta-girl. It was especially nice to see the numbers who turned out to help at the Jamboree on Sunday June 8th at Kick's.

We made approximately just a little over two thousand dollars that day. That included proceeds from the door, 50/50 raffles, floor raffles, rip off tickets and a very generous donation from the Rutland City VFW of \$100.00.

On Saturday, June 14th at the Rodeo sponsored by the Rutland Chamber of Commerce we took in \$483.00. We had a great location to set up our tents. We sold cotton candy, ice cream, popcorn & some baked goods. As you will see, cotton candy was very popular that day. It was not a good ice cream day:

\$320 - cotton candy  
108 - raffles  
55 - other food sales  
\$483 - Total

The \$483 doesn't seem like much, but Wal-Mart will match what we made, so you can double the \$483.

The Chamber of Commerce was expecting 5,000 people to attend but fell way short of their objective, probably due to the fact that the rodeo is usually held on July 4th and includes fireworks.

There are two special people that I would like to thank.

The first is Doug Williams, the owner of Kicks. Doug is a Vietnam vet and over all nice guy. He didn't charge us for the use of his facility, inside or out, he gave us free

reign of his establishment.

Doug also reduced by 1/2 the amount we owed him for food or drinks of each band member. We gave each member of each band tickets valued at \$2.50 each to use towards the purchase of food or beverage. We thought that would be a good gesture seeing as they were playing at no cost to us. The total came to \$240 & Doug only charged us \$120.

The other person I would like to thank is Pattie Ingalls. She is a Wal-Mart employee and works in their snack bar. Pattie also does the cotton candy. Wal-Mart had agreed to let Pattie use the Cotton Candy machine at the Jamboree but because there was going to be alcohol served at this event, their policy apparently prevents them from participating where alcohol is served.

We were fortunate enough to locate a machine, thanks to Pam & Richard Greene of Poultney. Pattie, on her own time, came to the Jamboree and made cotton candy for us.

She & Wal-Mart's machine spent the good part of Saturday, June 14th making cotton candy. She is a real joy to work with & she has already volunteered her services at any future event that we may sponsor.

Again thank you for all of your help. As of June 16th, we have raised \$8,540.00.

Next meeting will be July 5th at Seward's Family Restaurant at 6 pm. Hope to see you all there!

- John -

## Color Guard Report

Well we are off to a great start with our Color Guard. Loyalty Day kicked off at 1400 hours and was a splendid Parade. For once the parade kept moving. Then came the Memorial Parade in Fair Haven on the 24 May. On Sunday 25 May we went to the Sharon Rest Area for the Vermont Thunder; not as big a turn out for the bikers, but a nice ceremony which everyone enjoyed.

Then on Monday 26 May we were at Evergreen Cemetery for memorial services.

By the time of this newsletter we will have been to the Chester Alumni Parade on 7 June. I want to thank the Color Guard for a good turn out for all events. Our new M-16s make us look like Vietnam Veterans now.

Tom Reardon  
Color Guard Captain

## RECOGNITION DAY

*Submitted by Tom Reardon*

Things are moving right along as the time gets near. All invitations to crafters and military vendors (183 total) have been sent out. The color Guard invites go out this week. The Rutland Guard will put up a display, and our helicopters will be back this year. Speakers are being lined up, national advertising in VVA Veteran paper, Soldier of Fortune and the Vietnam magazine are being drawn up. If all goes as planned we should have a good turn out. We will need help on that day so if you are not tied up on any of the other programs - **PLEASE PITCH IN AND HELP MAKE THIS A TIME TO REMEMBER FOR EVERYBODY.**

**VVA Chapter #1  
Wishes to Thank the  
CVPS Shareholder  
Community Program  
and especially  
Mr. Hughes  
for the printing of the  
newsletter.**

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.



## Upcoming Meeting Schedule

*The July meeting of VVA Chapter #1  
will be held on Saturday, July 5 at 6 PM.*

*The meeting will be held at Seward's  
Family Restaurant in Rutland.*

*The August meeting  
will be held on Saturday, August 2.*

Articles & Ads for the  
Newsletter may be mailed  
directly to the editor:

Beth Higgins  
RD 1 Box 88A

Castleton, VT 05735

Deadline: First Saturday of the month

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## **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One Officers and Board of Directors**

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**President - John Bergeon - (802) 773-2815**

**Vice President - Steve Faye - (802) 773-7305**

**Secretary - Jack Crowther**

**Treasurer - Jon Pintello - (802) 265-8602**

### Board Members

**Dick Doyle - (802) 885-2167 - Work -**

**e-mail - [rdoyle@pop.det.state.vt.us](mailto:rdoyle@pop.det.state.vt.us)**

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## **Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair**

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repairs done on premises • Carrying  
a large line of shoe care products  
• Heels While You Wait

*Product Sales for VVA #1  
Military Pins, Patches, Stickers, Buckles, etc.*

## ***We Honor Our Vets***

**10% Discount on all repairs**

**John Bergeron**  
*Owner*

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT  
Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon



# Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

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4. <b>Army Navy Store</b> Center St., Rutland, 773-8839	10%
5. <b>Ron's Sunoco</b> Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 773-2790	5%
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7. <b>Howard's Sunoco</b> S. Main St., Rutland, 775-7911	10%
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9. <b>Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys</b> Center St., Rutland, 773-1488	10-20%
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13. <b>Two By Two-Handmade wooden jewelry</b> Pittsford, 483-6121	10%
14. <b>Boise's Electrical Service</b> Rutland, 747-4481	10%
15. <b>Battery Street Jeans</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445	10%
16. <b>Leather Fashions, Inc.</b> Disc. <u>plus</u> they pay the tax!	
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20. <b>Eastman's</b> 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutland	10% (custom framing not included)
21. <b>Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair</b> 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT	10%
22. <b>A &amp; J Auto Parts</b> 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584	10% (except on sale items)
23. <b>Classic Stitching</b> , Computerized Embroidery 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659	10%
24. <b>Pasqually's</b> 162 N. Main St., Rutland, 775-7040	10%
25. <b>Paul's Family Restaurant</b> Jct. Rts 7 & 140, Wallingford, 446-2150	10%, eat-in or take-out
26. <b>Sevigny's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> 236 Main St., W. Rutland, 438-2977	10%
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam Era \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal



### Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1997

*This is to certify that*

**John Doe**

*is a member in good standing of the  
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1*

**Sgt. Pepper**

**Membership Committee Chairman**

*Temporary Membership Card*



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Advertise Your Business in the  
VVA Chapter One Newsletter!

Rates:

Business Card Size - \$5.00

1/4 Page - \$10.00

1/2 Page - \$20.00

Full Page - \$40.00

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



***Have a Safe & Happy  
Fourth of July!***

*"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."*





# Vietnam Veterans of America

## Chapter One

July, 1997 • Newsletter • Number 4, Vol. 7

### From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....

The Vermont General Assembly has decreed that the second Sat. of August will be the Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition Day. That means that anyone serving in the military during the years of 1959-1975 would be considered a Vietnam Era Vet. So, this is your day, we have been given an opportunity to show the world that we are not all a "bunch of crazed, drugged out nutcases" that our era has been wrongfully labeled by the "Outsiders". This is our opportunity to show them that we are an important, well adjusted contributors to our society in all facets of life.

We at VVA #1 would like to invite all of you to the second annual Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition day, which will be held on Saturday, August 9, 1997 at the Rutland Fair Grounds from 10 am - 6 pm.

There will be vendors, entertainment, speakers and comradeship. Remember, this is your day - let's make it a success. Also, we are putting together a collage of photos. If you have a spare photo of yourself in uniform please bring it so that we may add it to our collection.

If you are a vendor and would like to set up shop, call Tom or Carol Reardon at (518) 499-2488.

Next meeting August 2, 1997 at Swards Family Restaurant at 6:00 pm. This is the final meeting before Recognition Day, so please try to attend.

- John -

VVA Chapter #1 Wishes to  
Thank the CVPS Shareholder  
Community Program and  
especially Mr. Hughes  
for the printing of the newsletter.

### Highlights of July 5th Meeting

Memorial Committee: Funds for the memorial have now topped \$10,000 and the chapter needs to firm up the final design in order for work to begin. The artist who is working on the marble sculpture, Dan Remy, can incorporate changes VVA #1 wants and produce a finished product. John Bergeron said he had received 50 discharge papers for veterans whose names should be on the memorial. It was suggested that names of those killed in action be on a bronze plaque, while the names of others who served go into a book or other register to which names could be added.

John reported that with the encouragement of Phil Savery, VVA #1 has been able to acquire some high quality furniture from the quarters of the Green Mountain Bank.

Tom Reardon reported that the Color Guard needed to improve the turnout or join with other units, as recent attendance has been skimpy. Anyone interested in joining this group and taking part in various ceremonial occasions?

The members voted unanimously to make Pattie Ingalls, a WalMart employee, an honorary member of VVA #1 for her help with concessions at the Jamboree and Rodeo. 'Thanks for all the help, Pattie!

### RECOGNITION DAY

*Submitted by Tom Reardon*

Recognition Day - August 9, 1997

To date 139 crafters, 47 military vendors, and 103 Veteran Organization invitations have been mailed. So far we have received responses from 8 crafters, 1 military vendor and one Veteran Organization (Chapter #1).

Expect this month to be a very busy month as we are in the process of finalizing all the details now.

### Peterson: 'MIA-POW Issue Clearly Way Up on My List of Priorities'

*Reprinted in part from The Stars and Stripes, May, 1997*

The new US ambassador to Vietnam said his two top priorities will be normalizing economic ties between the two countries and finding still missing US soldiers.

The Senate earlier this year confirmed former prisoner of war Douglas "Pete" Peterson as the first US ambassador to Hanoi since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

"The MIA-POW issue is clearly way up on my list of priorities," Peterson said in an interview with CNN, although he said normalizing economic ties was perhaps the top issue he would address during his time in Vietnam.

Peterson served as an Air Force pilot in Vietnam and was a prisoner of war there for more than six years.

Asked why he would want to return as envoy to a country that held him prisoner, Peterson said, "I've looked at myself and my own personal experiences, my own attributes, and I think I can be a bridge, hopefully, across this river of pain that exists in these two cultures."

About 2,000 US soldiers are still unaccounted for in Vietnam, more than 20 years after the end of the Vietnam War.

"If we have no relations, we'll learn nothing of what happened to those 2,000," Peterson said. "I am very much convinced that with an ambassadorial relationship, that discovery of the fate of those that are still missing will be enhanced. I clearly have a personal stake in this."

"I know a lot of these people, and I can assure you and the American people that this issue is not going to go away," he added. "I will be working it diligently every day."

Asked whether he viewed the war as a mistake, Peterson said, "I haven't come to a total conclusion. I think there were some things that occurred that were useful out of that event. There are certainly things we could have done a lot better."

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.



## Upcoming Meeting Schedule

*The August meeting of VVA Chapter #1  
will be held on Saturday, August 2 at 6 PM.*

*The meeting will be held at Seward's  
Family Restaurant in Rutland.*

*August 9, 1997 - Vietnam Era Recognition Day  
Rutland Fairgrounds, 10 am - 6 pm*

*The September meeting  
will be held on Saturday, September 6.*

ARTICLES & ADS FOR THE  
NEWSLETTER MAY BE MAILED  
DIRECTLY TO THE EDITOR:

BETH HIGGINS  
RD 1 Box 88A

CASTLETON, VT 05735

DEADLINE: FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

## **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One Officers and Board of Directors**

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Vice President - Steve Faye - (802) 773-7305  
Secretary - Jack Crowther  
Treasurer - Jon Pintello - (802) 265-8602

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e-mail - [rdoyle@pop.dcf.state.vt.us](mailto:rdoyle@pop.dcf.state.vt.us)  
Bill Whitney - (802) 875-2640  
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*Product Sales for VVA #1  
Military Pins, Patches, Stickers, Buckles, etc.*

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## Member Profile

### Dick Doyle, Bellows Falls, VT

I live in Bellows Falls and have been a lifelong resident of Vermont. My military involvement began when I was drafted into the US Army on May 7, 1969 and served until May 6, 1971. I trained for 6 months as a Light Weapons Infantryman 11B and was sent to Vietnam 10-2-69. For my first 6 plus months I was assigned to several units of 1st INF DIV and patrolled the bush and rivers near Lai Khe and Dau Tieng. My units deactivated as the 1st INF was leaving Vietnam. Sometime in March 1970 I was reassigned to 101st ABN DIV and patrolled the mountains Northwest of Hue staying with them until leaving Nam on 10-1-70. I served with a Medal of Honor winner, Kenneth M. Kays. My last 6 months in the Army was spent at Ft Carson, CO in a mechanized infantry unit.

My involvement with VVA and Chapter 1 began the summer of 1991. Interestingly, my membership paperwork was messed up so I called National. They wanted to assign me to AT LARGE, as they were sure Chapter 1 was nearly defunct. My actual chapter involvement began 2 years later when I received notice the chapter would be making a trip to DC/THE Wall/Women's Memorial dedication. What a great experience! Can't wait to do it again. I kind of "laid in the weeds" for a while watching, listened to issues and trying to figure out where I fit in. Being an out of townner with a 50-mile commute to meetings and functions presented some problems.

In the fall of 1994 I finally found my niche and took over the membership program. Since then I have become involved on the Board of Directors, delegate to newly formed State Council, and State Council membership chair, also member of Color Guard for Chapter 1. I enjoy my involvement and will continue until it's no longer fun. My suggestion to members is to "get involved" to the best of your ability. Everyone can contribute something. My goal is to have at least one Chapter 1 member in each state. (16 now)

My military involvement picked up again in 1975 as I joined the US Army Reserves. I am still a member of the Military Police Corps and hold the rank of Sergeant Major. My wife Holly and children Kelly and Sean have supported my involvement in Chapter 1 and VVA, after my being a "closet veteran" for 20+ years. I work for the State of Vermont, Dept. of Employment & Training as Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) for the past 25 years. I help veterans find jobs and training.

3rd Annual VAO Golf Tourney  
Skene Valley Golf Course  
Whitehall, NY  
August 10th - 8:00 am  
For more information  
Contact Jon Pintello  
(802) 265-8602



## Fair Haven POW/MIA Memorial

A POW/MIA Memorial is to be erected in Fair Haven's Veterans Memorial Park as soon as funds are raised and the work can be accomplished.

It will be a bronze plaque on slate as the existing memorials and will sit at the park end opposite the World War I Memorials.

Donations may be made to:  
The Fair Haven POW/MIA Memorial Fund  
c/o Vermont National Bank  
PO Box 67  
Fair Haven, VT 05743-0067.

50/50 raffle tickets are available from  
Don Amorosi (518-792-2057) and  
Joe Donaldson (802-265-4749),  
\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

## The Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Update

by John Bergeron, Co-Chairman

### Deposits

Total Deposits \$10,325.50

Deposits include personal and corporate donations, donation jars, jamboree, rodeo, \$33 still owed by Stanley Dulski

### Expenses

Chittenden Bank \$12.22

U.S. Collectors Ordinance

\$402.

Eastmans \$39.75

WalMart \$38.50

Green Mt. Rental \$28

Kicks \$121

Dean Rippon \$50

Ted Hubbard, Inc. \$65

Rosemary Valentine \$5

WalMart \$25.89

Misc. \$129.00

M-16sX2 - 1/2 reimbursed  
by VVA#1 General Fund

Six rolls of tickets

Jamboree

Popcorn Machine, Rodeo

Beverage & food for band  
members

Clown for Jamboree

Porta Potty for Jamboree

reimburse for ice, Rodeo

items for Rodeo

Postage, Paper items, etc.

These items were paid out of petty cash





## My Prisoner of War

*By Doug Dotson, August 15, 1992*

I wear a Prisoner of War bracelet  
You can see it on my arm  
From one of the POWs,  
From the war in Vietnam.

This bracelet that I wear,  
I've worn for a bunch of years,  
I think of that man constantly,  
I've even cried some tears.

Laurent Lee Gourley from Iowa,  
Flying a recon mission over Laos,  
On a beautiful summer day.  
The pilot was Scotty Dotson,  
A Southwestern Virginia man.  
Both were Majors in the Air Force,  
Proudly serving Uncle Sam.

They were shot down by ground fire,  
Way inside the Laotian line,  
On the Ninth of August,  
In Nineteen Sixty-Nine.

These people were abandoned  
By the Government they loved the most,  
Now they're ancient memories,  
Or maybe somebody's ghost.

But I guess that is the way it goes,  
When your Government doesn't care,  
YOU are just a human being,  
You are expendable as your hair.

There are more POWs in Cambodia,  
And even in China too,  
And a bunch from the Korean War,  
And the Soviets even took a few.

So think about them over there,  
And think how long they've been gone,  
Remember them when you talk to your God,  
Ask him to let the survivors come back home!



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam Era \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal



### Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1997

*This is to certify that*

**John Doe**

*is a member in good standing of the  
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1*

**Sgt. Pepper**

**Membership Committee Chairman**

*Temporary Membership Card*



## Regulation broadens Vietnam vet compensation eligibility

*Reprinted in part from Afterburner, May 1997*

The Department of Veterans Affairs has published in the Federal Register a new regulation on compensation payments to Vietnam veterans suffering from prostate cancer and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy based on their exposure to Agent Orange.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown said, "It is only proper that the government accept responsibility for the disabilities resulting from military services. These new benefits, which have been so long in coming, are a continuation of the cost of war and a reminder to us that we must honor our commitment to the men and women who serve in the armed forces."

The regulation resulted from an in-depth VA review of a report issued in March 1996 by the National Academy of Sciences on the health effects of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. NAS, under contract with VA, found that there is now limited or suggestive evidence to show an association with prostate cancer and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy (a neurological disorder) in Vietnam veterans.

Under the new rule, Vietnam veterans currently disabled from acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, if manifested within one year of exposure, and prostate cancer are eligible to apply for disability compensation. The effective date of the final regulation is Nov. 7, 1996.

In its report, NAS also had found new limited or suggestive evidence to show an association with spina bifida (a congenital abnormality) in the children of Vietnam veterans. VA submitted to Congress proposed legislation to provide an appropriate remedy.

That legislation, signed into law Sept. 26, 1996, authorizes medical care, a stipend ranging from \$200 per month to \$1,200 per month based on the level of disability, and vocational training. Congress delayed the effective date until Oct. 1, 1997. Said Brown of the spina bifida benefits: "To have a child suffering from a birth defect is devastating for any family. I am pleased that VA proposed this legislative remedy to reach out to Vietnam veterans whose children were born with spina bifida."

Brown also said that VA is in the process of selecting a site for a research center that will focus on reproductive health issues in an effort to learn more about the possible

relationship between exposures to herbicides and other environmental hazards during military service and the development of birth defects and other health problems in veterans' offspring.

Approximately 2.6 million veterans served within the borders of South Vietnam and in adjacent waters. Vietnam veterans are now required to prove exposure to Agent Orange, VA presumes that all military personnel who served in Vietnam were exposed. VA estimates that potentially up to 3,000 children of Vietnam veterans may be afflicted with spina bifida.

In addition, VA also recognizes the following seven diseases as presumptively related to exposure to Agent Orange: chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, soft tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx, trachea) and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Vietnam veterans or their survivors who believe the member's health problems may be related to their exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam should contact the nearest VA medical center or regional office.

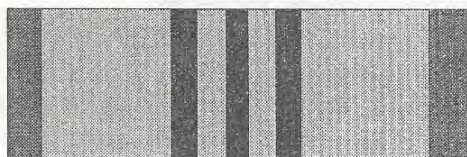
VA's nationwide toll free number is 1-800-827-1000.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



*Vietnam Era Recognition Day*

*August 9, 1997*

*Rutland Fairgrounds, 10 am - 6 pm*

Bill & Beth Higgins  
RD #1 Box 88A  
Castleton, VT 05735

*"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."*





# Vietnam Veterans of America

## Chapter One

August, 1997 • Newsletter • Number 4, Vol. 8

### *This Newsletter is Dedicated to the Memory of* *Donald G. Bodette* *1949 - 1997*

#### **From the Desk of** **John Bergeron, President**

.....

For some of you who are reading this, the name Donald Bodette may not be familiar to you. "Donny" is the reason that VVA exists. He was the co-founder of VVA, even before VVA National existed. Donny and a handful of others in the late 70s and early 80s held many impromptu meetings where they discussed the condition of the Vietnam Vet and their plight; drug and alcohol abuse, unemployment, homelessness, etc. The founders of VVA realized the need for an organization to assist these vets. The outcome of this was VVA #1.

During some of those early meetings with Bobby Muller; the first National President, Donny was very adamant that there had to be a grassroots organization not just a National warehouse that Bobby would of wanted

Donny became the first President of the first chapter in the history of VVA.

In those early days there was a lot of one on one with other vets, at all sorts of strange hours of the day. It could have been at their home, in a hotel room, the local lockup, or anywhere else, they were there to assist a needy vet.

I personally was not around during those early days but came on board in 1991. At that time Donny was phasing out of VVA #1 due to burnout and a commitment to family and a business, although he remained active in the veterans community.

I think that we all owe Donald G. Bodette a debt of gratitude for his perseverance and dedication to his fellow vets.

- John -

#### **Day of Reflections**

Vietnam Era Recognition Day will be over and done with when this newsletter is published. But I can already see the outcome of this very special day for most of us.

The day will start with a lot of anxiety as the days events

draw closer to the starting time.

Then comes the grandeur of the massing of the colors and emotions start to run high as we stand at attention readying for the entrance of the Color Guards.

The word comes down, Present Colors, the flags start to wave in the breeze as we move forward. The veterans in the crowd come to attention and either salute or put their hand over their heart. The emotions are running to the extreme now and some of us feel the tears welling up in our eyes.

This is a day of no anger, only the gentle warm feeling of friendships renewed and of new friends found, We find the peace and relaxation that hasn't been there in days gone by.

We laugh, cry and find the tranquility in our hugs. Some don't understand, but soon learn by days end that there are some things in this world only a veteran can give a veteran and at times, it is hard for family and friends to comprehend why they are not the one to bring forth that comfort.

By days end, there is a certain warmth within us that will carry us into the next few weeks of being proud of what we are and what we stand for.

For this day, we remember what freedom really means and the price that has to be paid for that honor.

The scars of war are never easy to heal. We hurt from the loss of good friends, killed in battle or taken prisoner, never to be heard from again. We hurt from intrusive thoughts that make us stand away from the rest of the world. We search for that camaraderie that we once had in the Nam and are afraid to let go of those friends we once knew so long ago. We eat, sleep and walk with their memory, whether living or dead. But this day we take the time to remember fondly of the good times we had in the good ol' days.

Yea, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we fear no evil, for the darkness and the loneliness are our friends and we will survive but for the grace of what ever God you believe in.

To every VETERAN that was at that ceremony, in Rutland, Vermont, on August 9, 1997, "WELCOME HOME".

- Steve -

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It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.



## Upcoming Meeting Schedule

*The September meeting of VVA Chapter #1  
will be held on Saturday, September 6 at 6 PM.*

*The meeting will be held at Seward's  
Family Restaurant in Rutland.*

*The October meeting  
will be held on Saturday, October 4.*

**Articles & Ads for the  
Newsletter may be mailed  
directly to the editor:**

**Beth Higgins  
RD 1 Box 88A**

**Castleton, VT 05735**

**Deadline: First Saturday of the month**

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Visit our new expanded store • All  
repairs done on premises • Carrying  
a large line of shoe care products  
• Heels While You Wait

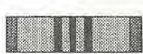
Product Sales for VVA #1  
Military Pins, Patches, Stickers, Buckles, etc.

*We Honor Our Vets*  
**10% Discount on all repairs**

**John Bergeron**  
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT  
Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon





# Donald Bodette, 48,



## Worked Tirelessly For Vietnam Vets

*By Liz Anderson  
Rutland Herald Staff*

*Reprinted from Tuesday, August 12, 1997*

Rutland's Vietnam veterans community is mourning the passing of one of its founding fathers, Donald Bodette, who died Sunday after a short illness.

Bodette, 48, a former Marine injured in combat, was a cofounder of Rutland's chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America, the first of hundreds of chapters in the nationwide organization.

Among other accomplishments, he also helped create the Veterans Assistance Office in Rutland and worked to institute the first two veterans centers in the state.

A quiet man who was awarded a Purple Heart for his military service, Bodette was known among veterans for devotion that went beyond programs and buildings.

Albert Trombley of Rutland recalled the night he, Bodette and other volunteers helped a veteran down from his mountain home by toboggan in an ice storm because the man had run out of medication and needed to get to the VA hospital for more.

"There were other times when we rented hotel rooms and sat up with guys and just talked for hours and hours to help them over a crisis in their life or something," Trombley said. "That's the kind of guy he was."

Trombley, like local veterans activist Jake Jacobsen, met Bodette through an advertisement Bodette had placed in the Rutland Herald in search of fellow veterans. The one Jacobsen answered, he recalled, read, "Vietnam Veterans, we need to talk."

Bodette had met more than four hours on one occasion in the late 1970s with Bobby Mueller, the first president of Vietnam Veterans of America, according to Jacobsen.

Mueller envisioned the fledgling organization as simply a large activist group. Bodette "saw the bigger picture," insisted it have local chapters, and announced that Rutland would be the first, Jacobsen recalled.

Bodette recognized that veterans were missing the camaraderie they had as soldiers, Jacobsen said.

"He felt and I felt if we could regenerate that and provide that at home it would be a tremendous asset toward healing," he said. "And it worked."

Together, the two men cofounded the chapter in 1980, with Bodette serving as its first president.

"Donny and I probably never worried about membership," Jacobsen said of the chapter. "He said, 'If we're good enough, they'll want to join us.' His thrust was outreach.

"We used to laugh about going out and looking for the wounded, and whatever that meant in handling that situation, that's exactly what we did."

Bodette would travel through the state in a converted bus and host meetings in it for veterans who wanted to talk. He networked through the veterans centers and was always available by telephone, helping people who were grappling with issues from Agent Orange exposure to suicide to post-traumatic stress, Jacobsen said.

"He didn't have any master plan," Trombley said. "He would stop and look for people, he would put advertisements in the paper to get veterans to come out, and once he found one or two they would find two or three. He got all around the state of Vermont."

Bodette sought public recognition for the service of veterans who fought in Vietnam, regardless of people's opinions about the war itself, Jacobsen said.

Through the chapter, he helped establish scholarships for local high school students and created an award for people instrumental in helping veterans. Bodette helped create veterans centers in Williston and White River Junction and the Veterans Assistance Office in Rutland, serving at one point as its director.

"Donny and Jake linked together ... they had a way of pulling the camaraderie out of you and that's what made Donny a great man," said fellow veteran Clark Howland, the current director of operations for the Veterans Assistance Office. "He could always come down to your level or pick you up to his level.

"I owe him a lot," Howland said. "He helped an unknown number. I'd say it would run in the thousands of veterans. And what we're doing now is just to carry on for what Donny started."



## Donald Bodette

The funeral service for Donald G. Bodette, 48, of Rutland, who died Sunday morning, August 10th at the Veterans Administration Center in White River Junction, was held at 10 am Wednesday, August 13th at St. Peter's Church. Burial will followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

He was born Feb. 12, 1949, in Proctor, son of George W. and Clema (Thorpe) Bodette.

Mr. Bodette attended Rutland High School.

He was a US Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War and was the recipient of the Purple Heart.

Mr. Bodette was the owner and operator of Bodette Enterprises.

He attended St. Peter's Church and was a member of American Legion Post 31 and the Naval Fleet Reserve. He was the founder and first president of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1, and the former director of the Veterans Assistance Office in Rutland, and the Purple Heart Association. He was a co-author and compiler of the Agent Orange Research Project for the state of Vermont.

Survivors include his wife, Diane (Ellis) Bodette; his mother, Clema Stacey of North Clarendon; his father, George Bodette of Chester; three daughters, Chris Wingfield of Johnson, Dawn Bodette-Pitts and Carrie Chandler, both of Rutland; two brothers, Roger Bodette of Denver, Colo., and Rudy Bodette of Hubbardton; two sisters, Gloria Brady of Fayetteville, NC, and Coni McKay of Middletown, RI; six grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A daughter, Ashley A. Bodette, died Feb. 8, 1989.

Contributions may be made to Make a Wish Foundation, specifically for a child with terminal cancer, in care of Clifford Funeral Home, 2 Washington St., Rutland, 05701.

## Mr. Bodette Rites

The funeral service for Donald G. Bodette, 48, of Rutland, who died Sunday, was held Wednesday at St. Peter's Church. The Rev. W. Andre Houle, pastor, officiated. Burial took place in Evergreen Cemetery.

Vocalists were Helen Davidson and Shawna McKay. Organist was William Gower-Johnson.

Reader was Carol Buro.

Ministers of the altar were Joseph Tilden, Alfred Flory and John Mulcahy.

Bears, representing the Vietnam Veterans, were Tom Skinner of Ira, John Bergeron of Rutland and Jon Pintello of Castleton.

Other bearers, representing the Marine Corps League, Edson Detachment, were Leonard Doucette, Robert Brunelle and Steve Faye, all of Rutland.

Military services were provided by the 4th Marine Division of Albany, NY and by the Vietnam Veterans, Chapter 723.

Military services at the cemetery were provided by members of the Vietnam Veterans. They were Buster Holmberg, Joe Maynard, Ken O'Connor and Greg Donabedian.

Members of the 4th Marine Detachment provided the firing squad. They were Russell Sparks, Patrick McCoon and Nathaniel Young.

Flag folders were Mark Brooks and Chris Hennessey. Denell Durham made the presentation of the flag to the family.

Taps were sounded by the 4th Marine Division.

The Rev. Houle conducted prayers services Tuesday at the Clifford Funeral Home.

## *He Set Me Free*

*Don't grieve for me now that I'm free, I'm following the path God set for me.*

*I took His hand when I heard Him call, I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day to laugh, to love, to work or play,*

*Tasks left undone must stay that way, I found that peace at close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy,*

*A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, Ah, Yes, these things I'll surely miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow, I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.*

*My life's been full, I savored so much, good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, don't lengthen it now with undue grief.*

*Lift up your hearts and share with me, God wanted me now, He set me free.*

Author Unknown



# Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>DISCOUNT</u>
1. <b>Northeast Army Navy Surplus</b> Rt. 7 North, Rutland, 773-7322	10%
2. <b>Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair</b> 13 Center St., Rutland	10%
3. <b>Adirondack Tire Merchants</b> Strongs Ave., Rutland, 775-1944	10-20%
4. <b>Army Navy Store</b> Center St., Rutland, 773-8839	10%
5. <b>Ron's Sunoco</b> Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 773-2790	5%
6. <b>Sal's Restaurant</b> West St., Rutland, 775-3360	10%
7. <b>Howard's Sunoco</b> S. Main St., Rutland, 775-7911	10%
8. <b>Boss Threads</b> Diamond Run Mall, Rutland	10-20%
9. <b>Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys</b> Center St., Rutland, 773-1488	10-20%
10. <b>Buxton's Sunoco</b> N. Main St., Rutland, 773-9747	5% off labor & parts
11. <b>Bob's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> Chittenden, 773-9507	10%
12. <b>Greg Barsanti, C.P.A.</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-4038	20%
13. <b>Two By Two-Handmade wooden jewelry</b> Pittsford, 483-6121	10%
14. <b>Boise's Electrical Service</b> Rutland, 747-4481	10%
15. <b>Battery Street Jeans</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445	10%
16. <b>Leather Fashions, Inc.</b> <b>Disc. <u>plus</u> they pay the tax!</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 775-3099	
17. <b>Lemon Rentals</b> Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460	12% on car or van rentals
18. <b>McNeil &amp; Reedy, Inc.</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760	10%
19. <b>Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen</b> 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313	20% off food items
20. <b>Eastman's</b> 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutland	10% (custom framing not included)
21. <b>Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair</b> 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT	10%
22. <b>A &amp; J Auto Parts</b> 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584	10% (except on sale items)
23. <b>Classic Stitching</b> , Computerized Embroidery 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659	10%
24. <b>Pasqually's</b> 162 N. Main St., Rutland, 775-7040	10%
25. <b>Paul's Family Restaurant</b> Jct. Rts 7 & 140, Wallingford, 446-2150	10%, eat-in or take-out
26. <b>Seigny's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> 236 Main St., W. Rutland, 438-2977	10%
27. <b>Freeman Jewelers</b> 76 Merchants Row, 773-2792	10%
28. <b>Jake's Light Trucking</b> W. Rutland, 438-5188	10%
29. <b>Big Daddy's Used Cars</b> Center Rutland, 438-2558	5% on truck accessories
30. <b>Rutland Optical</b> 28 Center St., Rutland, 775-0121	10% off complete pair of glasses
31. <b>Paradee &amp; Associates</b> Legal Investigations, Burlington, 860-6100	20% off all services

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:  
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam Era \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal



### Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1997

*This is to certify that*

**John Doe**

*is a member in good standing of the  
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1*

**Sgt. Pepper**

**Membership Committee Chairman**

*Temporary Membership Card*



## Membership/Membership

**LOTS OF NEW MEMBERS TO WELCOME:** Roger Borroel from E Chicago, IL was in the 101st ABN; Barry Speare from Killington was a Captain in the Army; Nora Ruuso from Chester, a new Associate; Richard Shum from Wallingford rejoined; Douglas McArthur from El Paso, TX (our 17th state with Chapter 1 members); Timothy Payne from Rutland was in the Navy; David Vadnais from Castleton was in the Air Force; Tom Whittaker from Brandon was in the Army; John Leonti from N. Canton, OH (which is our 18th state with Chapter 1 members) was in the Army; David Potter from N. Clarendon was a Captain in the Air Force; David Gilman from Rutland; David Thornton from Cambride, NY, new Associate; and last but certainly not least our newest Associate is Patti Ingalls from N. Clarendon who works for Walmart and has helped us immensely on several fundraisers form the memorial.

Please feel free to submit a MEMBER PROFILE on yourself to the Chapter. (This offer goes for any existing members also.)

I plan on having a collage of Chapter 1 members that provided me a picture at Recognition Day in August. If you would like to participate next year, stay tuned. I'll publish the information.

*Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman*

## To All Veterans and Families of Veterans

### ***Bill Passes Entitling Monetary Return to Veterans***

If you are a Veteran, or if any of your relatives fall under that category, you may be interested in the following motion. A bill was recently passed by Congress entitling veterans to a dividend on the GI Insurance they had while in the service. Both current and former military personnel are entitled to this dividend regardless of whether or not they still carry the insurance.

If you are eligible you will not receive the dividend unless you ask for it. The Veterans Administration will review each individual case and determine eligibility. A general schedule of dividends earned is as follows:

- 2 years of service \$261.00
- 3 years of service \$391.00
- 4 years of service \$528.00

To apply for the dividend write to the Veterans Center, PO Box 8079, Philadelphia, PA 19101, include your name, address, GI Insurance number, if known, branch of service, date of birth and date of military service. If you have a copy of your DD 214, it would be helpful to attach it to your letter.

**REMEMBER:** The Veterans Administration will not automatically send you the dividend. You must apply for it.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



Bill & Beth Higgins  
RD #1 Box 88A  
Castleton, VT 05735

*"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."*





# Vietnam Veterans of America

## Chapter One

September, 1997 • Newsletter • Number 4, Vol. 9

### From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

Please make note of the change in the date and location of our next monthly meeting. The date has been changed from October 4th to the 11th of October so that Dick Doyle can attend the Region One conference in Rhode Island. The meeting will be held at my store which is located at 13 Center Street in Rutland. If you plan on attending the meeting and need directions, you can call me at 802-773-2815. The reason for the change is that Sowards has decided to charge us \$25 per meeting to use their facilities. So we need to find another location or pay the \$25.

The time will however remain the same - 6:00 PM.

The October meeting will focus mainly on the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

We need more input on the design of the memorial itself. We have a basic concept in which a handful of people have had an input, but I feel it is important to invite those of you who are interested and whose name will become part of this project to have your say. We will have some of the people there at the meeting who will be working on various parts of the memorial. So if you have questions to ask of these people, they will be there to answer them.

Please try to attend this very important meeting.

The winner of the Simpson Signature Winston Cup Helmet was Bob Bigelow of Castleton. \$1500 was raised from the selling of raffle tickets. I would like to thank Phil Savery and his nephew Mark Garrow for this helmet. All the proceeds will go towards the memorial.

Again, Please try to attend the meeting at my store on October 11, 1997 at 6 PM. Chapter 1 needs your input! Hope to see you there.

John

### From the Newsletter Staff

We here at the newsletter try to print articles which we feel may be of some benefit to our readers. On occasion one slips by us which proves to contain false information. In our last issue we told you that you might be entitled to some dividends on your GI insurance.

For those of you such as myself and thousands of others who sent your request to the Veterans Affairs office, you have or will be receiving the following communication from them:

"A false and misleading rumor sweeping the nation is plaguing us at the Department of Veterans Affairs and leading thousands of veterans such as you to write us requesting dividends on insurance that you may have had in force while on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Congress did not pass any new law giving veterans a dividend based on the amount of months their insurance was in force while on active duty. The information you received regarding such a dividend is a hoax.

Also false is the rumor that individuals who are currently serving or who served in the military after 1965 and are or were insured under the SGLI (Servicemen's Group Life Insurance) program are entitled to a refund. There have never been any dividends, rebates or refunds due to surplus funds in the SGLI program.

You can help us to eliminate these rumors by passing this information along to any of your friends or to any veterans group to which you belong.

Thank you.  
Department of Veterans Affairs."

This info was taken from the Navy Times so we thought it to be valid. I always had my suspicions about grown men wearing white bell bottoms and funny looking hats!

We apologize and hope that you were not caused any hardship.

VVA Chapter #1 Wishes to Thank the CVPS Shareholder Community Program and especially Mr. Hughes for the printing of the newsletter.

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.



## **October Meeting Date Changed**

*The October meeting of VVA Chapter #1  
will be held on Saturday,  
October 11th at 6 PM.*

*The meeting will be held at John Bergeron's store,  
Downtown Has Sole, 13 Center Street,  
Rutland. Call 802-773-2815  
if you need directions.*

**Articles & Ads for the  
Newsletter may be mailed  
directly to the editor:**

**Beth Higgins  
RD 1 Box 88A**

**Castleton, VT 05735**

**Deadline: First Saturday of the month**

### **Support Your Newsletter!**

Chapter #1 sells space in our newsletter for advertising. By doing this, we raise money for the newsletter committee to use for mailing the monthly newsletter. Also, we promote the businesses or causes of our local business owners, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Space is available at the following rates:

1/8 page - \$5 per month • 1/4 page - \$10 per month

1/2 page - \$20 per month • Full page - \$40 per month.

Mail your ads each month to either: Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735 or VVA #1 PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05701.

### **Articles Needed For Newsletter**

This is your newsletter. We try to fill it with as much information as we can find, but we need your help. We need your articles, letters to the editor, poetry, artwork, newspaper clippings, upcoming events, or anything else you think might be interesting to other members of the chapter. Without you, this newsletter & this chapter cannot succeed!!

Send your articles to: Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735 or VVA #1 PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05701.

## **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One Officers and Board of Directors**

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Bill Whitney - (802) 875-2640

Stanley Dulski

Andy Moschetto - (802) 483-2530

### **Associate Liaison**

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## **Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair**

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*Owner*

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Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon



# Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>DISCOUNT</u>
1. <b>Northeast Army Navy Surplus</b> Rt. 7 North, Rutland, 773-7322	10%
2. <b>Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair</b> 13 Center St., Rutland	10%
3. <b>Adirondack Tire Merchants</b> Strongs Ave., Rutland, 775-1944	10-20%
4. <b>Army Navy Store</b> Center St., Rutland, 773-8839	10%
5. <b>Ron's Sunoco</b> Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 773-2790	5%
6. <b>Sal's Restaurant</b> West St., Rutland, 775-3360	10%
7. <b>Howard's Sunoco</b> S. Main St., Rutland, 775-7911	10%
8. <b>Boss Threads</b> Diamond Run Mall, Rutland	10-20%
9. <b>Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys</b> Center St., Rutland, 773-1488	10-20%
10. <b>Buxton's Sunoco</b> N. Main St., Rutland, 773-9747	5% off labor & parts
11. <b>Bob's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> Chittenden, 773-9507	10%
12. <b>Greg Barsanti, C.P.A.</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-4038	20%
13. <b>Two By Two-Handmade wooden jewelry</b> Pittsford, 483-6121	10%
14. <b>Boise's Electrical Service</b> Rutland, 747-4481	10%
15. <b>Battery Street Jeans</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445	10%
16. <b>Leather Fashions, Inc.</b> <b>Disc. <i>plus</i> they pay the tax!</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 775-3099	
17. <b>Lemon Rentals</b> Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460	12% on car or van rentals
18. <b>McNeil &amp; Reedy, Inc.</b> Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760	10%
19. <b>Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen</b> 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313	20% off food items
20. <b>Eastman's</b> 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutland	10% (custom framing not included)
21. <b>Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair</b> 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT	10%
22. <b>A &amp; J Auto Parts</b> 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584	10% (except on sale items)
23. <b>Classic Stitching</b> , Computerized Embroidery 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659	10%
24. <b>Pasqually's</b> 162 N. Main St., Rutland, 775-7040	10%
25. <b>Paul's Family Restaurant</b> Jct. Rts 7 & 140, Wallingford, 446-2150	10%, eat-in or take-out
26. <b>Seigny's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> 236 Main St., W. Rutland, 438-2977	10%
27. <b>Freeman Jewelers</b> 76 Merchants Row, 773-2792	10%
28. <b>Jake's Light Trucking</b> W. Rutland, 438-5188	10%
29. <b>Big Daddy's Used Cars</b> Center Rutland, 438-2558	5% on truck accessories
30. <b>Rutland Optical</b> 28 Center St., Rutland, 775-0121	10% off complete pair of glasses
31. <b>Paradee &amp; Associates</b> Legal Investigations, Burlington, 860-6100	20% off all services

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:  
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam Era \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal



### Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1997

This is to certify that  
**John Doe**

is a member in good standing of the  
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1

**Sgt. Pepper**  
Membership Committee Chairman  
Temporary Membership Card



## HELP SAVE BABY EMMA

Baby Emma's article was published on the front page of the Bennington Banner on July 23, 1997. She is the granddaughter of Chapter #601 founder, Robert Hannan.

Now is the time for all veterans to lend a helping hand. This baby is in desperate need of a liver transplant in hopes to save her life.

The parents of Emma, Erin (Hannan) and Edward Tift could use some financial help even if it is only \$1.00, as every little bit helps. Emma is in Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Vermont.

A fund has been set up to help meet the family's medical expenses at the Vermont National Bank in Bennington, Vermont.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Emma Tift Trust Fund can do so at the bank or by mail at PO Box 288, Bennington, VT 05201, Attn. Cindy Dumas.

THANKS TO EVERYONE IN ADVANCE.

Brothers & Sisters, Here is a poem written by my son, Gabriel Brunelle. Written for us he would like to share them with all of us.  
Vic Brunelle, Life Member Chapter 1

## POST

It is wet, and I am squatting in the jungle.

I can feel the rain as it beads and drips  
off the tip of my nose.

I would be able to see it run in a steady sheet  
off the edge of my helmet,

but for the dark.

You could see that I've got screaming, gleeful eyes.  
That rictus grin upon my death mask face,

that I am lying in the bed next to her.  
Sweating rivers while she sleeps.

And I might be able to tell the difference,

but for the dark.

Gabriel Brunelle

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



Bill & Beth Higgins  
RD #1 Box 88A  
Castleton, VT 05735

*"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."*





# Vietnam Veterans of America

## Chapter One

Oct. - Nov., 1997 • Newsletter • Number 4, Vol. 10 - 11

### From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....

For those of us who live in the Northeast this is the time of year that we prepare ourselves for the upcoming winter. Even though some of the prognosticators are telling us that we are in for a warmer winter, that means snow and ice, which translates into lots of slipping and sliding on the highways and byways of Vermont.

Before we all go into our winter mode, I would like to thank all of you who helped organize and worked at the various events that took place over this past summer. We had a very busy and productive last few months. Much of what we did centered around fund-raising for the Memorial, and of course VVA #1 hosted the "97" Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition Day on August 9th.

During the course of the summer I have met many wonderful people. I have met some of the members who I see their names when putting together the newsletter but never had a face to go with the names. The most recent of these being Sam Bunge and his wife who traveled all the way from Petersburg, Alaska. Sam attended our last meeting so some of the members got to meet with him. We didn't realize that Sam was around during the early days of VVA #1 and knew Don Bodette.

So, now we have to deal with fewer hours of daylight, cooler weather, higher electricity bills and all that is associated with winter in Vermont. It would be nice if over the next few months we get to hear from our members outside the state. Let us know how you are surviving the winter and don't forget to include a photo of yourself so that we can include you in our membership collage.

If you have any complaints, criticisms, questions, or ideas, please include them.

### FUND RAISING

On October 31, 1997 we thought that we would test the waters and see if there was money to be made during the Rutland Halloween Parade. For those of you from "the outside", the Halloween Parade is one of the largest, if not the largest, parades in the state. There were two things working for us; it was a Friday and the temperature was warmer than normal for this time of year. We set up shop in front of my store and sold hot wings, hot dogs, donuts, coffee and hot mulled cider. RoseMary Valentine, Steve Faye and I cooked and served the food. Most of the people, including the Mayor, thought that we had a great idea. He and his family spent some of their money with us. I wonder if the Mayor knew that we didn't have the appropriate permits?!

From 6:00 to 9:00 we sold \$115, and after expenses we netted \$67.92. So, if we are to use this as a gauge, we should seriously consider doing this in 1998.

On Nov. 8 & 9 we spent the weekend at the Rutland Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart invited VVA #1 to take part in their Veterans Weekend. We were allowed to set up a table on the inside of the store just inside the front entrance, so we were assured to receive some exposure over the weekend. On Saturday, Nov. 8th we held a bake sale and later in the day we sold some products. On Sunday we sold the few remaining baked goods and products. WalMart is open 7 am to midnight, but we chose 8-5 for our hours of operation.

Totals for the weekend were as follows: Bake Sale \$170, Product Sales \$191, Total Sales \$361.

I would like to thank Wal-Mart for inviting us. I must admit, we had a bit of an edge. One of our newest members, Patti Ingalls, has recently been promoted to Community Affairs Coordinator. So we certainly thank Patti for thinking of us.

*Continued on Page 3*

VVA Chapter #1 Wishes to Thank the CVPS Shareholder Community Program and especially Mr. Hughes for the printing of the newsletter.

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.



## December Meeting: New Location

*The December meeting of VVA Chapter #1 will be held on Saturday, December 6th at 6 PM. The meeting will be held at The VFW on Wales Street in Rutland. They have offered us a permanent meeting space. I have looked at the space and it would be adequate for our needs. We can try it for awhile and see how people feel. Thanks to CVPS for the use of their facility for our last meeting.*

**Articles & Ads for the  
Newsletter may be mailed  
directly to the editor:**

**Beth Higgins  
RD 1 Box 88A**

**Castleton, VT 05735**

**Deadline: First Saturday of the month**

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## **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One Officers and Board of Directors**

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Treasurer - Jon Pintello - (802) 265-8602

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e-mail - rdoyle@pop.det.state.vt.us  
Bill Whitney - (802) 875-2640  
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Andy Moschetto - (802) 483-2530

### Associate Liaison

RoseMary Valentine - (802) 447-0373

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Visit our new expanded store • All  
repairs done on premises • Carrying  
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*Owner*

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### *President's Message, Continued from Page 1*

By the way, Congratulations to Patti on her promotion. I also would like to thank all of those who baked all of those "goodies" for us. On Saturday the table was heaped with baked goods. I want to thank Faie Sheppard, RoseMary Valentine, Steve Faye, Tom Skinner, Tom Reardon, Andy Mochetto and Phil Savery for manning the table and being such good sales people.

As a reminder to our members, we have VVA #1 t-shirts, hats, pins, belt buckles and more for sale. So if you are interested, please contact us.

We need to think of other fund-raising events. If any of you have ideas please let us know.

See you on the slopes or in the ER!

John

## **Highlights of the October 11 Meeting**

Highlights of the October 11 meeting included discussion of State Council activities and the design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland.

The State Council had not yet resolved the question of how Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition Day was to be observed in the future. Chapter 1 consensus seems to be that a statewide effort and support of all chapters is needed if the event is to be statewide. There is support in Chapter 1 for a simple chapter event, such as a picnic. The State Council will take up the issue again October 25th at its meeting in Rutland.

Chapter 1 members discussed some granite pieces left over from the Vietnam Memorial in Washington. A thousand or more of these pieces are in possession of the Green Mountain Vietnam Era Veterans Assistance Fund and could generate \$100,000 or more of income. The authority over the fund by the State Council is a matter of some disagreement, and some Chapter 1 members feel more accountability by the fund to the chapters is needed.

Don Ramey, the sculptor who is carving the large marble block for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland, discussed his ideas for the relief image of the soldier figure that will lie horizontally along the top of the marble block, which is more than six feet long.

Those present agreed that Don should have some artistic freedom in rendering the image. Members expressed approval of his approach to the sculpture, which was originally conceived and begun by the late John Reno.

Chapter 1 will continue firming up details of the memorial's design. Approximately \$10,575 has been collected so far for the project.

## **VA Rules on Vets Birth Defect Children Called Unfair**

Washington, D.C. (October 6, 1997) Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) national president George Duggins today charged that regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) September 30, 1997, on benefits for Vietnam veterans' children with spina bifida are grossly unfair. Spina bifida is a birth defect of the spine and nervous system which affects nearly all bodily systems and functions. Veterans have suspected since the end of the Vietnam War that adverse reproductive outcomes, including the birth defect spina bifida, were related to their Vietnam service.

Last year, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reported a link between Vietnam vets' Agent Orange exposure and the birth defect spina bifida in their children. Congress quickly passed legislation providing compensation, health care and vocational rehabilitations for these children (Public Law 104-204). Last spring, VA proposed draft regulations for the implementation of these benefits.

VVA and several other veterans service organizations, as well as the Spina Bifida Association of America, submitted extensive comments suggesting changes to make the regulations more fair. Sen. Thomas A. Daschle, Senate Minority Leader and the lead sponsor of the legislation, as well as Sen. John D. (Jay) Rockefeller, ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, also submitted comments on several key points. In its final regulations, VA disregarded virtually all of the comments, including those of Senators Daschle and Rockefeller.

VA's proposals fail to compensate children for many of the serious, disabling conditions related to spina bifida. VA also plans to automatically rate all newborn children with spina bifida in the lowest disability compensation category, a move strongly criticized by Vietnam Veterans of America. VVA also pointed out that the regulations would penalize these children for getting appropriate medical treatment, by setting a lower disability rating of those able to achieve partial or temporary relief of their symptoms.

In an October 6 letter, VVA called on Acting Secretary Hershel Gober to make the regulations fair and compassionate for these disabled children. "With the law going into effect October 1, we are very concerned that these flawed regulations will cause many of the children of Vietnam veterans who apply for these benefits to be inappropriately rated and denied vocational rehabilitation benefits," said VVA National President George Duggins. "We believe there are several points on which VA disregarded the intent of Congress as outlined in the statute." VVA urged Gober to ensure that VA's "Putting Veterans First" commitment also applied to these children beneficiaries.



## Original Composition The Monument Debuts

On Friday, November 14th the premier of "The Monument" was held in Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Symphony Orchestra will perform 46 year old David Sampson's work.

Mr. Sampson was a Vietnam War Protestor but changed his mind while visiting "The Wall" and after reading the book "Patches of Fire" by Albert French. According to Samson the line from the book, 'time only heals a wound clean' struck a cord and he called Mr. French. The two of them worked together during the composition of "The Monument".

The symphony is about a vet visiting the Wall for the first time and how all the memories of the war are rekindled. Sampson had a difficult time with the ending, obviously he couldn't end with a Disney type theme. Mr. French's first visit to the Wall left him with a sense of hope and peace. Even though he would return home with the same problems, but at least he had hope. So this was how the ending was developed.

Maybe some time in the future we will have the privilege of having this performed locally.



## A Reminder From Your Editor

As you have already noticed, this edition of your newsletter is a combination of October & November. The information for the October issue was received late. **Very late.** Too late to get the edition out on time.

As always, the problem remains that relatively few people contribute articles to the newsletter. This means that I am at the mercy of those few to get their articles to me on time. Sometimes allowances can be made, please let me know if you need extra time.

**Please remember that the deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the first Saturday of the month.** This deadline was established to allow plenty of time for the typeset & design of the newsletter.

I have had a very time consuming job for the past two years, and must work the newsletter in as I can. Now I am trying to establish my own business on the side, so my time is even more limited.

The truth of the matter is, I enjoy doing your newsletter. I have done it ever since it's inception in 1994. Please help me to continue to do a good job for you, and get your articles to me on time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Beth Higgins

## Care Corner

Glad to see that Steve Faye survived his operation with flying colors and is back on the streets.

Our condolences go out to Joe Yandel. His sister was killed in a recent auto accident. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sadly, we have lost one of our members, Joseph C. Silva, 81, of Rutland. He was a WWII veteran, and the father of Lt. Joe Silva, KIA Vietnam. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

## Photo Display

There will be a display of photos of VVA #1 members in the Chittenden Bank for the month of November. We still need more photos!!



Happy

222nd

Birthday

to the

U.S.M.C.

Nov. 10th

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## **Miscellaneous Improvements Finally Implemented**

On July 1, the VA published final rules implementing the 1996 Veterans Benefits Improvement Act, Pub.L. No. 104-275. The effective date of the changes varies as noted below. 62 Fed. Reg. 35, 421; to be codified at 38 C.F.R. Part 3.

The definition of the Vietnam era is expanded from May 7, 1964, back to Feb. 28, 1961, but only for vets who served in Vietnam during that period. 38 C.F.R. §3.2(f). For purposes of the Agent Orange presumption of service connection, the definition is expanded back to Jan. 9, 1962. Sec. 3.307(a)(6). These definitions went into effect January 1, 1997.

Surviving spouses of vets who died after Dec. 31, 1996, who are not themselves eligible for VA benefits will no longer have to pay back pension or compensation benefits the vet received the month he or she died. Sec. 3.20(c).

Surviving family members can also get two years - not one year - of accrued benefits for deaths after October 9, 1996, and for deaths before that date that were not finally decided before then. Sec. 3.1000(a).

Finally, effective October 9, 1996, burial benefits (including transportation to cemetery) are payable on behalf of vets who die in certain state nursing homes. Sec. 3.1600(c).

## **Service in Vietnam**

On July 23, the GC addressed whether service on a naval vessel in the waters off the shore of Vietnam constituted service in the Republic of Vietnam for purposes of the new law that defines the Vietnam era (for those who actually served in Vietnam) as beginning on Feb. 28, 1961. According to the GC, service on a deep-water naval vessel off the shore of Vietnam does not count under this law. VAOPGCPREC 27-97.

The GC cited legislative history that explained that the new law was designed to recognize that "U.S. troops were subject to the real perils of ground combat at least as early as February 28, 1961." Given this and other statements of Members of Congress, the GC felt it was reasonable to not include deep-water service. The vet whose case generated this question had been on an aircraft carrier and was applying for VA pension benefits.

NOTE: The dates of the Vietnam era are unchanged for pension purposes and remain at Aug. 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975. The earlier date is only for vets who were in Vietnam earlier. This could probably apply to Navy vets who provided close-in support and river patrols.

## **BVA Hold Up Decisions Involving Tax Return Info**

In an August 22 memo, the acting Chairman of the BVA alerted its members to potential criminal liability problems in cases that involve highly confidential tax return information. BVA Memo 01-97-24.

Tax return information is sometimes used to determine eligibility for pension and unemployment benefits. Until this is sorted out, the BVA is staying adjudication of issues on appeal that will or may involve discussion of tax return information.

The memo also points out that service reps cannot have access to tax return information unless a power of attorney includes the income recipient's Social Security number, authorization for VA to disclose tax return information, the year of the tax return, and the name of the individual to whom the information is to be disclosed. If a joint return is involved, both must execute this special PoA.

## **Retroactive Benefits in PTSD Claims**

On July 16, the OGC addressed whether the addition of a diagnosis of PTSD to the Schedule for Rating Disabilities in 1980 was a liberalizing law or issue under 38 C.F.R. § 3.114(a). According to the GC, it was and could open the door to retroactive benefits. VAOPGCPREC 26-97.

Under Sec. 3.114(a), the effective date of an award "shall be fixed in accordance with the facts found, but shall not be earlier than the effective date of the [liberalizing law] or administrative issue." This section also requires that the vet have met all the eligibility criteria for PTSD as of 1980 and has remained eligible to the date of his claim.

Even with all that, however, the retroactive award is limited to only one year.

## **How to Find Attorney Representation**

The National Organization of Veterans' Advocates, whose members are admitted to practice before the Court of Veterans Appeals, offers a free referral service for veterans or survivors. NOVA's Advocate Referral Service directs callers to its members who have declared their willingness to represent veterans on a contingency basis. To obtain a referral, call (800) 810-8387. Veterans should be prepared to FAX a copy of their latest BVA denial to NOVA for review.





## Film To Be Made About Items Left At The Wall

*Downloaded from the Internet by Dick Doyle*

There is a documentary being done about the items left at the Wall. Blue Collar Filmworks is working in conjunction with the National Park Service to produce this, but the NPS cannot provide names of those who have left items at the Wall. Anyone who is willing to discuss when and why they left any items at the Wall can contact Ken Arco at this toll free pager number 888-691-4842.

*Happy  
Thanksgiving!*



## Membership Notes

Annual Summary of where Chapter 1 members are from. In Vermont: Arlington, Barre, Bellows Falls, Bennington, Bomoseen, Brandon, Brattleboro, Burlington, Castleton, Center Rutland, Chester, Danby, East Corinth, Fair Haven, Grand Isle, Graniteville, Hardwick, Killington, Londonderry, Mendon, Middlebury, Middletown Springs, Montpelier, Morrisville, Mt. Holly, Newport, North Clarendon, Orwell, Pittsford, Poultney, Putney, Randolph, Richford, Rochester, Rutland, Shaftsbury, Springfield, South Lincoln, Thetford, Vergennes, Vernon, Wallingford, Waterbury, West Charleston, West Rutland, White River Junction, Williamstown, Wilmington, and Windsor!

Out of State: Petersburg, AK; North Highlands, CA; Broomfield & Englewood, CO; Milford, CT; Naalehu, HI; Ashland, IL; East Chicago & South Bend, IN; Shelburne Falls, MA; Sidney, ME; Clinton Township & Kawkalin, MI; Albuquerque, MN; Ossipee, Piermont & Surry, NH; Lakewood, NJ; Cambridge, Hampton, Mayfield, New York & Whitehall, NY; Sparks, NV; N. Canton, OH; St. Catharines, ONT; and El Paso, TX!

Hopefully I missed no one. Hats off to all you supporters of Chapter 1. Know somebody from where we ain't? Recruit them!

It is my understanding that RENEWALS will be handled differently by VVA National this year and into the future. Renewal notices will come to you and payment will go directly to National. Chapter 1 will be reimbursed directly by National. Renewal notices will ask if you wish to contribute additional \$. If you wish to do that but want that money to go to Chapter 1 you'll need to send to Chapter 1. Please consider as an option a 3 YEAR membership for \$50. Or better yet check out pricing for LIFE membership.

Please do not forget. We are looking for member "profiles" that we can publish in our newsletter. Here's your chance for fame!

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** Hugh "Sandy" McLeod from Clinton Township, MI (formerly from Rutland), Tom LaFond from West Rutland, Roger Jimmo from South Lincoln and Bob Carvey from Proctor (Welcome Back!).

*Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman*

Beth Higgins  
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19. <b>Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen</b> 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313	20% off food items
20. <b>Eastman's</b> 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutland	10% (custom framing not included)
21. <b>Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair</b> 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT	10%
22. <b>A &amp; J Auto Parts</b> 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584	10% (except on sale items)
23. <b>Classic Stitching</b> , Computerized Embroidery 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659	10%
24. <b>Pasqually's</b> 162 N. Main St., Rutland, 775-7040	10%
25. <b>Paul's Family Restaurant</b> Jct. Rts 7 & 140, Wallingford, 446-2150	10%, eat-in or take-out
26. <b>Sevigny's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> 236 Main St., W. Rutland, 438-2977	10%
27. <b>Freeman Jewelers</b> 76 Merchants Row, 773-2792	10%
28. <b>Jake's Light Trucking</b> W. Rutland, 438-5188	10%
29. <b>Big Daddy's Used Cars</b> Center Rutland, 438-2558	5% on truck accessories
30. <b>Rutland Optical</b> 28 Center St., Rutland, 775-0121	10% off complete pair of glasses
31. <b>Paradee &amp; Associates</b> Legal Investigations, Burlington, 860-6100	20% off all services

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

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Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_


Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam Era \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

 <p><b>Vietnam Veterans of America</b> <b>Chapter One - 1998</b></p> <p><i>This is to certify that</i> <b>John Doe</b> <i>is a member in good standing of the</i> <b>Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1</b> <b>Sgt. Pepper</b> <b>Membership Committee Chairman</b> <i>Temporary Membership Card</i></p>
--



# I'm Alive



I came to the Nam to fight in their war, and I did what the others had done there, before.  
I questioned no orders that were given to me, and was the best soldier that I could be.

One day it happened, a terrible fight,  
and I was taken away in the night.

My captors confined me in a cage of bamboo, and beat me until I was all black and blue.  
They gave me very little food to eat, and put shackles on both my hands and feet.

They took me to a cave, high on the hill, and there proceeded to weaken my will,  
with torture and words that I still hear, "We can keep you forever" brought me more fear.

My country won't let you, I thought in my pain, They'll come and they'll get me, and free me, again.  
So I took all the pain they inflicted on my, and planned my escape, some day to be free.

Now, it's years latter, and I'm still in my cage, and all that I feel is a deep seated rage,  
the words that I hear have filled my with dread, the powers that be gave us all up for dead.

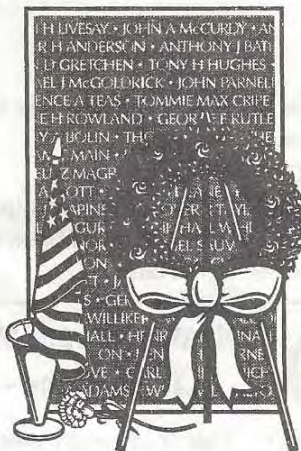
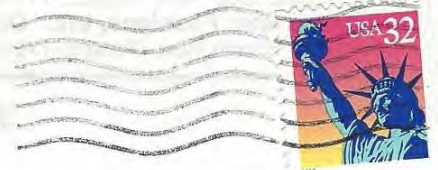
But should the time ever arrive, that someone should question "could they survive?"  
I'll shout with a voice I'm sure to revive, I'm Alive, I'm Alive, I'm Alive, I'm Alive.

## Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



**Veteran's Day**  
**November 11, 1997**

*"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."*





# Vietnam Veterans of America

## Chapter One

December, 1997 • Newsletter • Number 4, Vol. 12

### From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....

Well, it's the holidays and I suppose I should give you one of those rote "Boring Holiday Speeches". Bah Humbug!

For those of you who may not know, I own and operate the Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair Shop in downtown Rutland. Recently a new business has opened next door to me. "California Nails" is the name and Tammy and Tony are the proprietors of this newly established business. They are both Vietnamese. Now when people got wind of who they were all the snide comments started flying about. I even made some comment about their business.

Tammy and Tony, these are their American names, have been in next door for a couple of months now and I have gotten to know them very well.

Tony escaped Vietnam when he was 2 years old and spent the next four years in a refugee camp in Hong Kong with other brothers and uncles. They were finally given papers to enter the USA. His father was imprisoned for 13 years after the Commies took over South Vietnam. One of his uncles spent 10 years in jail and other uncles were killed.

I guess the point that I am trying to make is that there were immediate prejudices toward these two for no reason other than who they are. It really is a shame, because they are two of the nicest people you will ever meet and the hardest workers. Their business has increased tremendously and will continue to do so.

Oh, they also have a beautiful 7 month old girl named Julianne. She was born in the Good Ole USA. She will be the first generation in her family not to know the evils of WAR.

Happy New Year!

John

### Highlights of the December 6 Meeting

Chapter 1 has accepted the generous offer of the Rutland VFW Chapter to have a room in the Wales Street club rooms on an ongoing basis. Chapter 1 will be able to "fix up" the room to it's liking and have it for it's exclusive use.

A committee consisting of John Bergeron, Jon Pintello, Andy Moschetto and Phil Savery will meet soon with Bob Parker, the architect, and Ernie Smalley, the contractor, to finalize plans for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland. Plans will be presented to the membership for approval in January if possible.

The chapter has 140 current members, an excellent total.

The Color Guard's membership is down to six members. A meeting will be held in the near future to discuss the unit's future and the kind of schedule the unit can commit to.

### POW/MIA Awareness

*The following was written by Chris Valente, Grandson of Paula and Joe Donaldson of Fair Haven, VT. This was done as a class project.*

Dear President Clinton,

I'm writing to you to ask if there can be anything done about all of the POW's and MIA's from all of the wars. I wish that there could be something done because I don't like the people and their families suffering.

Sincerely,  
Chris Valente

VVA Chapter #1 Wishes to Thank the CVPS Shareholder Community Program and especially Mr. Hughes for the printing of the newsletter.

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.



## January Meeting: New Date

*Because January 3, 1998 comes at a bad time, the January meeting of VVA Chapter #1 will be held on Saturday, January 10th at 6 PM. The meeting will be held at The VFW on Wales Street in Rutland.*

**Articles & Ads for the  
Newsletter may be mailed  
directly to the editor:**

**Beth Higgins  
RD 1 Box 88A**

**Castleton, VT 05735**

**Deadline: First Saturday of the month**



**Freedom Forge  
Ornamental Ironwork  
Blissville, Vermont**

**Jon Pintello**

**PO Box 83 • Bomoseen, VT 05732  
(802) 265-8602 • (888) 286-8407**

## **PARADEE & ASSOCIATES**

**Legal Investigations**

**Accident Reconstruction • Investigations • Surveillance**

**E. Guy Paradee**

**P.O. Box 4248, Burlington, VT 05406**

**email: [paradee@vbimail.champlain.edu](mailto:paradee@vbimail.champlain.edu)**

**802.860.6100/telephone 802.860.1097/facsimile**

**A wholly owned subsidiary of Majestic corporation of America, Inc.**

## **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One Officers and Board of Directors**

### Officers

**President - John Bergeon - (802) 773-2815  
Vice President - Steve Faye - (802) 773-7305  
Secretary - Jack Crowther  
Treasurer - Jon Pintello - (802) 265-8602**

### Board Members

**Dick Doyle - (802) 885-2167 - Work -  
e-mail - [rdoyle@pop.det.state.vt.us](mailto:rdoyle@pop.det.state.vt.us)  
Bill Whitney - (802) 875-2640**

**Stanley Dulski**

**Andy Moschetto - (802) 483-2530**

### Associate Liaison

**Rose Mary Valentine - (802) 447-0373**

## **Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair**

**Visit our new expanded store • All  
repairs done on premises • Carrying  
a large line of shoe care products  
• Heels While You Wait**

**Product Sales for VVA #1  
Military Pins, Patches, Stickers, Buckles, etc.**

***We Honor Our Vets*  
10% Discount on all repairs**

**John Bergeron  
Owner**

**13 Center Street, Rutland, VT  
Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon**



# Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>DISCOUNT</u>	
1. <b>Northeast Army Navy Surplus</b> Rt. 7 North, Rutland, 773-7322	10%	17. <b>Lemon Rentals</b> 12% on car or van rentals Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460
2. <b>Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair</b> 13 Center St., Rutland	10%	18. <b>McNeil &amp; Reedy, Inc.</b> 10% Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760
3. <b>Adirondack Tire Merchants</b> Strongs Ave., Rutland, 775-1944	10-20%	19. <b>Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen</b> 20% off food items 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313
4. <b>Army Navy Store</b> 10% Center St., Rutland, 773-8839	10%	20. <b>Eastman's</b> 10% (custom framing not included) 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutland
5. <b>Ron's Sunoco</b> 5% Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 773-2790	5%	21. <b>Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair</b> 10% 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT
6. <b>Sal's Restaurant</b> 10% West St., Rutland, 775-3360	10%	22. <b>A &amp; J Auto Parts</b> 10% (except on sale items) 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584
7. <b>Howard's Sunoco</b> 10% S. Main St., Rutland, 775-7911	10%	23. <b>Classic Stitching</b> , Computerized Embroidery 10% 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659
8. <b>Boss Threads</b> 10-20% Diamond Run Mall, Rutland	10-20%	24. <b>Pasqually's</b> 10% 162 N. Main St., Rutland, 775-7040
9. <b>Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys</b> 10-20% Center St., Rutland, 773-1488	10-20%	25. <b>Paul's Family Restaurant</b> 10%, eat-in or take-out Jct. Rts 7 & 140, Wallingford, 446-2150
10. <b>Buxton's Sunoco</b> 5% off labor & parts N. Main St., Rutland, 773-9747	5% off labor & parts	26. <b>Sevigny's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> 10% 236 Main St., W. Rutland, 438-2977
11. <b>Bob's Hunting &amp; Fishing</b> 10% Chittenden, 773-9507	10%	27. <b>Freeman Jewelers</b> 10% 76 Merchants Row, 773-2792
12. <b>Greg Barsanti, C.P.A.</b> 20% Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-4038	20%	28. <b>Jake's Light Trucking</b> 10% W. Rutland, 438-5188
13. <b>Two By Two</b> -Handmade wooden jewelry 10% Pittsford, 483-6121	10%	29. <b>Big Daddy's Used Cars</b> 5% on truck accessories Center Rutland, 438-2558
14. <b>Boise's Electrical Service</b> 10% Rutland, 747-4481	10%	30. <b>Rutland Optical</b> 10% off complete pair of glasses 28 Center St., Rutland, 775-0121
15. <b>Battery Street Jeans</b> 10% Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445	10%	31. <b>Paradee &amp; Associates</b> 20% off all services Legal Investigations, Burlington, 860-6100
16. <b>Leather Fashions, Inc.</b> Disc. <u>plus</u> they pay the tax! Merchants Row, Rutland, 775-3099		

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam Era \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal



### Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1998

This is to certify that  
**John Doe**

is a member in good standing of the  
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1

**Sgt. Pepper**  
Membership Committee Chairman  
Temporary Membership Card



# Fact Is Stranger Than Fiction!

The following story was submitted by R. Jake Jacobsen, who downloaded it off the internet.

This was told as true. I'm not kidding!

Back in the bad old days of the Vietnam War Draft, young men were always interested in new ways to beat Army doctors at the dreaded DRAFT PHYSICAL.

The Army had gotten wise to cross dressing, Teddy Bears, staying up for 3 days straight, and most garden variety drugs. It was getting truly difficult for an aspiring young man to become a sanctioned draft dodger. All my male friends in high school & college were desperate for new strategies.

This one was by far the most creative ploy that I ever heard, and I spent many evenings listening to the young men in our crowd try to come up with a foolproof plan.

The teller knows of a "FOAF", (the most basic sign of an Urban Legend!) who received his orders to report for the physical on a certain date along with a number of other young men from his area. The others all panicked and went on

drinking binges, stole their sisters underclothes, and various other low probability strategies in order to be found physically or psychologically unfit for Uncle Sam.

Our hero went to bed early, got a good night's sleep and took a super good shower when he got up the next morning. He scrubbed every thing from the top to his head to the tip of his toes, but especially his bottom. After drying off, he packed his derriere with peanut butter and dressed for his physical.

He went through the line in his underwear with all the others, all the time acting as normal as apple pie.

When the moment came for the proctology examination, he stepped up to the line, dropped his pants, bent over and spread his cheeks. The doctor took one look, jumped back, and asked rather excitedly. "What's that in your ass?"

Whereupon, our cunning lad promptly dipped in a finger, tasted it, and replied, "It's peanut butter, sir."

Needless to say, he did not join the American Armed Forces on that day or any other.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One  
P.O. Box 6301  
Rutland, VT 05702  
Please Forward



Bill & Beth Higgins  
RD #1 Box 88A  
Castleton, VT 05735

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